
volume 4
Skip and Loafer
story and art by
MISAKI TAKAMATSU



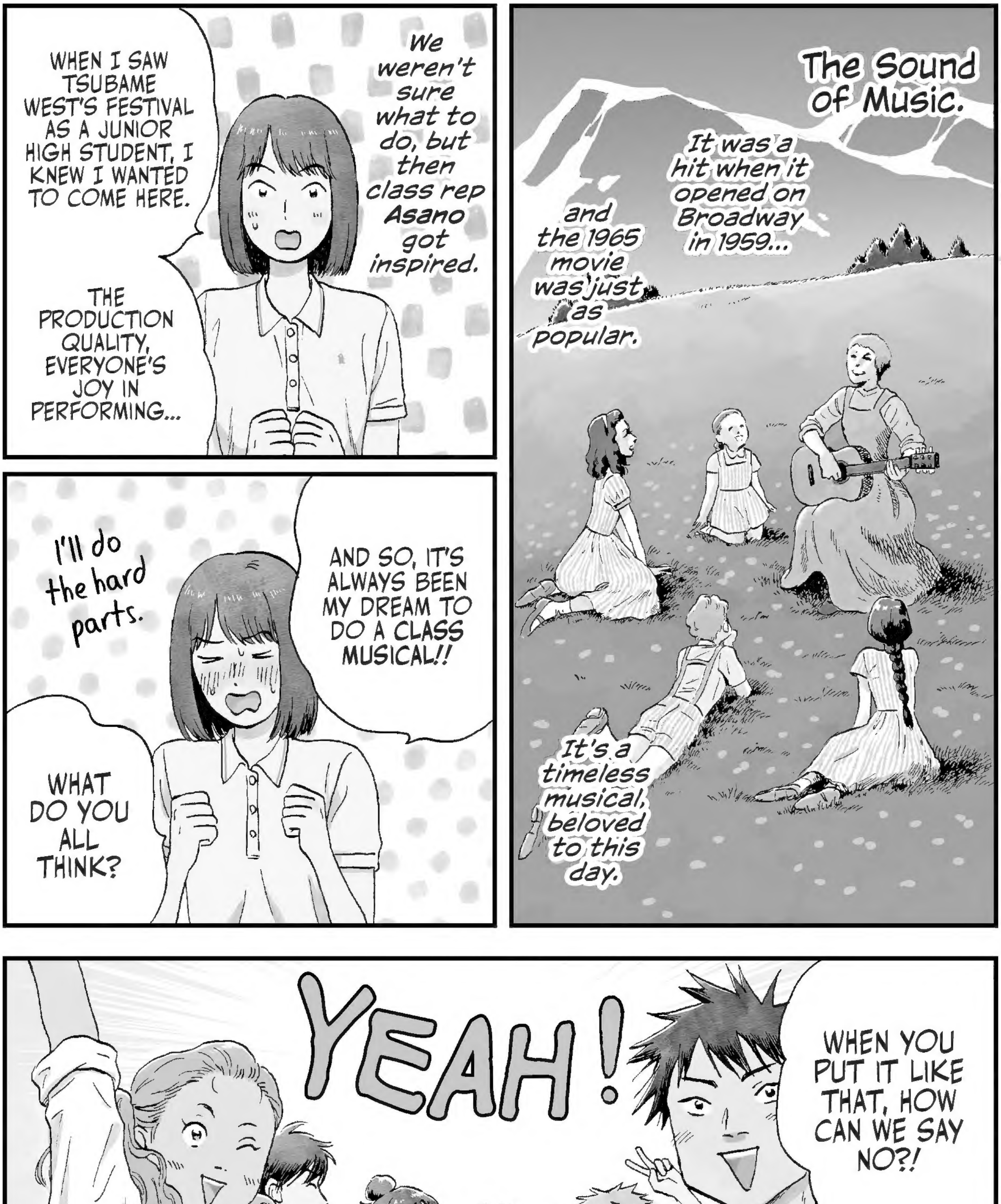
Skip and Loafer

4

story & art by
Misaki Takamatsu


Tsubame West's festival is a magnificent affair.
The executive committee spends all year preparing for it.
Plenty of clubs put on presentations, too.
First- and second-years hold class events, while third-years may run food stalls.
We student councilors juggle the budget, arrange equipment, hold meetings...
and help out wherever we're needed.
So we've been too busy for me to help my class...
as they rehearse their play.


The SKIP AND LOAFER
Tsubame West
School Festival
Potato Chips
Scene ⑱ Scramble! Preparing for the Festival

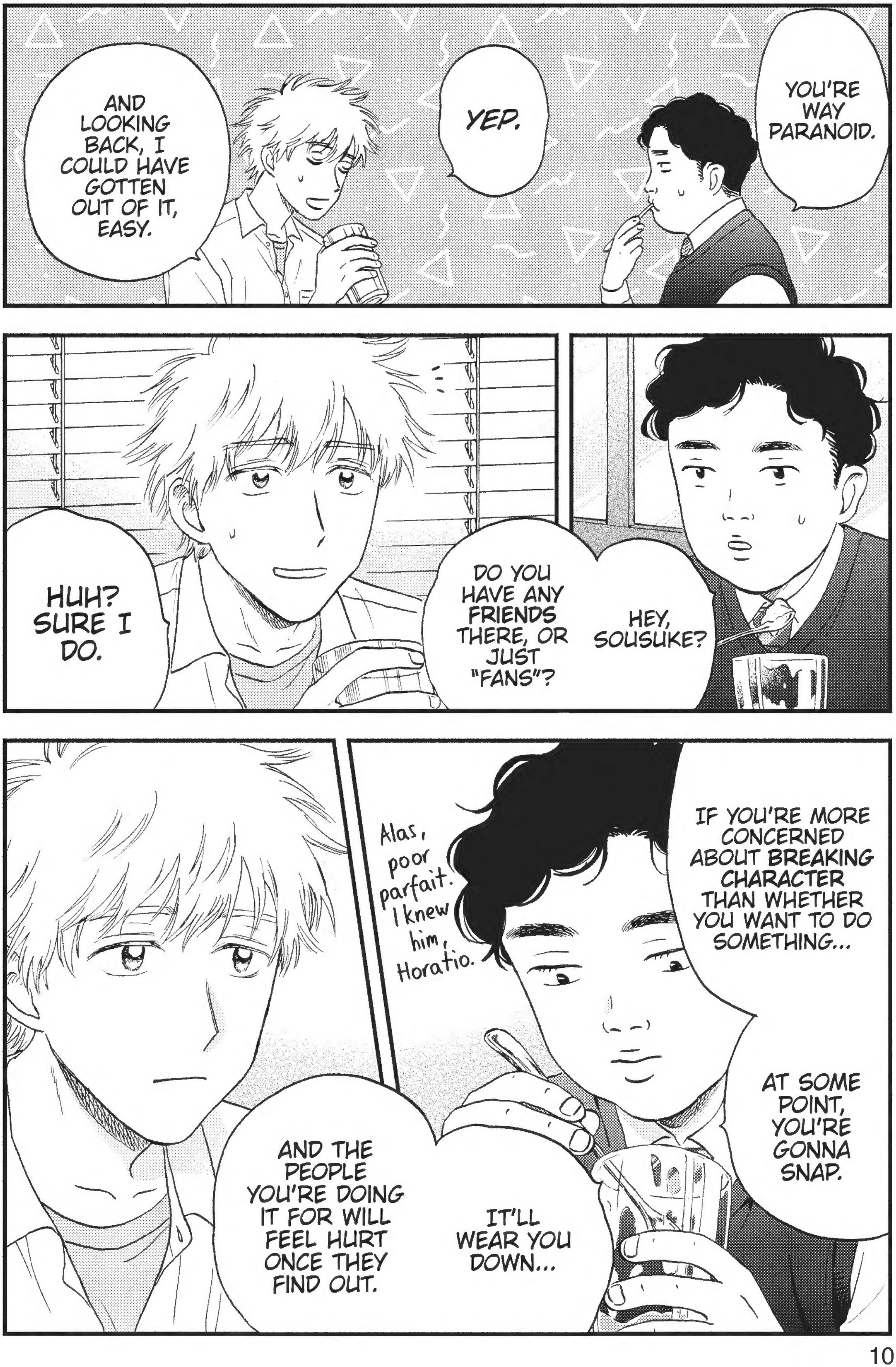

The Sound of Music.
It was a hit when it opened on Broadway in 1959...
and the 1965 movie was just as popular.
It's a timeless musical, beloved to this day.
We weren't sure what to do, but then class rep Asano got inspired.
WHEN I SAW TSUBAME WEST'S FESTIVAL AS A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT, I KNEW I WANTED TO COME HERE.
THE PRODUCTION QUALITY, EVERYONE'S JOY IN PERFORMING...
AND SO, IT'S ALWAYS BEEN MY DREAM TO DO A CLASS MUSICAL!!
I'll do the hard parts.
WHAT DO YOU ALL THINK?
YEAH!
WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT, HOW CAN WE SAY NO?!
TIME'S-A-WASTING! LET'S GET TO IT~!



It will be hard work... but I'm sure it'll be a great success!
I just know it.
YAY!
YEAH!
SQUEE!
KYA!
SERIOUSLY? THESE GUYS GET WAY TOO INTO EVENTS!
I KNOW, RIGHT?
IT'S CRAZY.
They all hopped right on board the musical train.
Didn't know our festival was such a big deal.
EVERY SCHOOL IS DIFFERENT, I GUESS.
MY SCHOOL BANNED HAUNTED HOUSES 'CAUSE A BUNCH OF COUPLES GOT HANDSY IN THE DARK!


NO WAAAY~!
Ugh...
ARE YOU ACTUALLY IN THE CAST?!
IT JUST KIND OF... HAPPENED, Y'KNOW?
ANYWAY, WHAT'S YOUR JOB?
......
NO WAY.
HOW? DID THEY PUT YOU ON THE SPOT?
What?
I'm not audition-ing. I'm already in Art Club.
I TECHNI-CALLY SIGNED UP FOR IT MYSELF...
YES YOU DOOO! YOU'RE OKAY AT KARAOKE!
Guh...
LET'S MAKE SOME MEMORIES, DUUUDE!
GANK
LET'S DO IT TOGETHER, SHIMA!!
NAHHH, I DON'T SING.
Wants to stand out.


Me, me!
SIGN ME UUUP!
YOU'RE THE MAN, SUDA-CHAN!
IT'S ALL COOL IF WE'RE DOING IT AS A TEAM!
H-HANG ON.
I'm supposed to be the guy who says yes to everything, right?
And this is the class event for the festival.
If I dig in my heels about this, won't they think it's strange?
Y...
YAAAAY!
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M IN~!
NOW WE'RE TALKING!



AND LOOKING BACK, I COULD HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF IT, EASY.
YEP.
YOU'RE WAY PARANOID.
HUH? SURE I DO.
DO YOU HAVE ANY FRIENDS THERE, OR JUST "FANS"?
HEY, SOUSUKE?
Alas, poor parfait. I knew him, Horatio.
IF YOU'RE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT BREAKING CHARACTER THAN WHETHER YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING...
AT SOME POINT, YOU'RE GONNA SNAP.
AND THE PEOPLE YOU'RE DOING IT FOR WILL FEEL HURT ONCE THEY FIND OUT.
IT'LL WEAR YOU DOWN...


HEY.
We'll practice in the after-noons and after school!
YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS?
Ha ha.
MEH.
I'LL LIVE.
...
Haa...
AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU.
I... THINK YOU HAVE A POINT.
Hmph.
I KNOW I DO.
IT'S JUST, IT'S MORE COMFORTABLE WITH PEOPLE AT ARM'S LENGTH...
INSTEAD OF POKING ME ABOUT MY CHILD-ACTOR DAYS.


I DON'T WANT TO MAKE RIRIKA'S LIFE ANY HARDER.
I'VE GOT MY SECRETS. AND IF THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME ANY REAL FRIENDS...
THEN OH WELL.
......
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!
ANYWAY, EAT THIS CHERRY, WOULD YA?
HUH?
NO WAY. IT'S ALL SOGGY AND GROSS.
Thank you! Please come again!

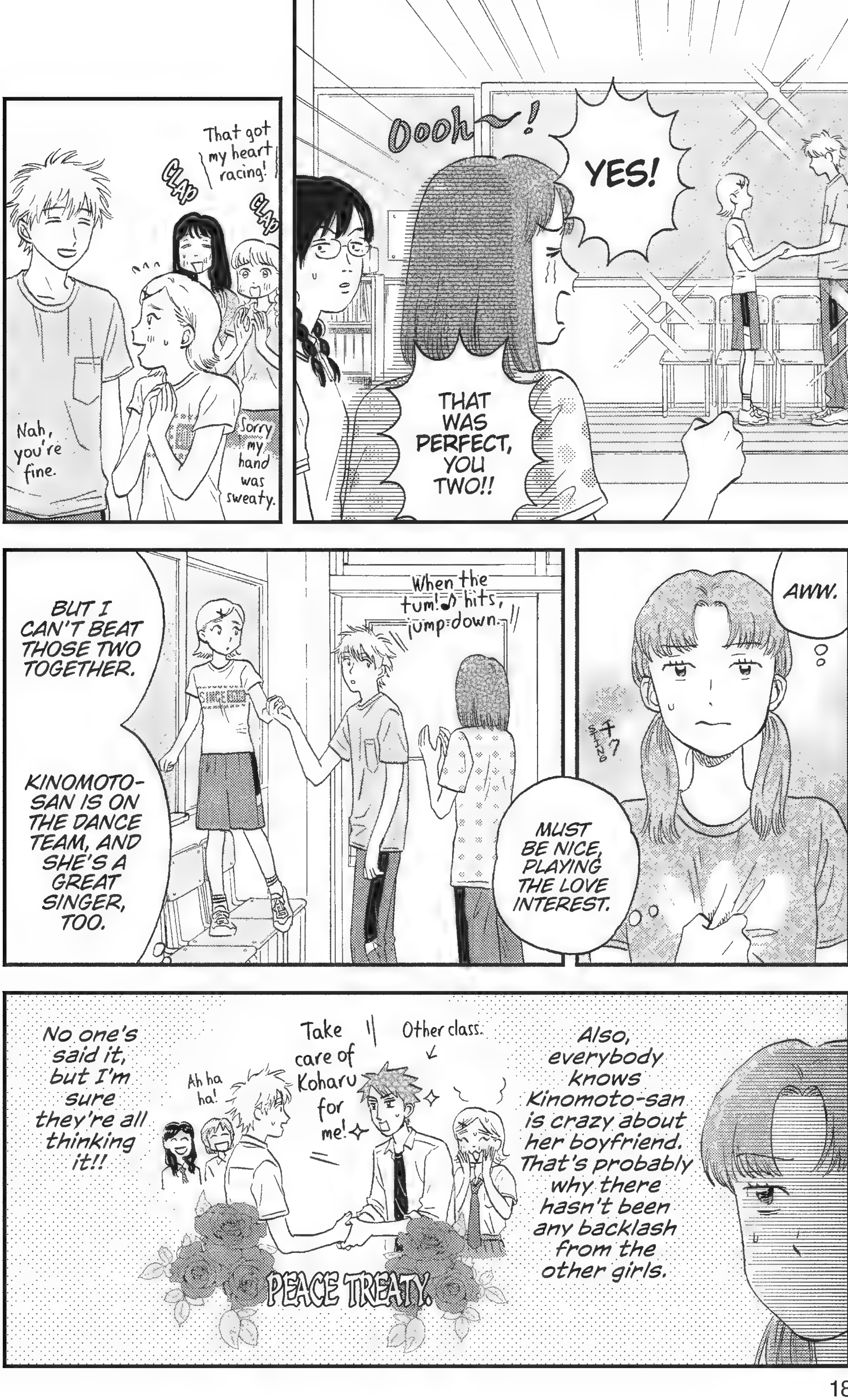

Oh.
AND DON'T TELL RIRIKA ABOUT THE FESTIVAL.
A musical?!
Bwa ha ha!
Sousuke, singing and dancing?!
Oh, I can't miss this. When?!
I'D NEVER.
Hnnnngh!
I'LL BE FINE. I'M JUST TAKING IT EASY.
YOU ALWAYS HAD SO MUCH FUN.
MORE THAN ANY OF US. BACK THEN, I MEAN.


LOOK, UH... I KNOW YOU TOOK IT HARD WHEN THE WORK DRIED UP...
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT IT SHOULD HAVE--YOU WERE THAT GOOD!
UH... WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...
TRY NOT TO LET IT GET TO YOU, AND JUST HAVE FUN!
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A CLASS ACT, CHRIS-KUN.
DON'T I KNOW IT!
OOPS. I FARTED.
BRRRT!
Man...
BAM BAM BAM...


Painting.
Costumes.
Set and props.
PR.
Budget.
Lighting and sound.
The Sound of Music
Story
This is the story of one nation, and how it spent those final days of peace.
In the days leading up to the Second World War, a shadow of unrest blankets the world.
Salzburg, Austria, at the end of the 1930s.


Maria, a nun in training, is a free spirit with a ready song on her lips.
For disrupting the other nuns, she is sent to Captain von Trapp's home to be governess to his seven children...
Please, Mother, don't send me away!
This is my home, my life!
Learn what you're capable of, Maria.
The Mother Abbess (Egashira Mika)
Maria (Asano Ryouko)
Captain von Trapp has raised his children with military discipline...
ever since the death of his wife.
The von Trapp children don't play!
Uncle Marx (Yamada)
Captain von Trapp's fiancée
Captain von Trapp (Hashimoto Taku)
Can Maria bring song and laughter back to this family?!
ROLF!
Liesl, Oldest Daughter (Kinomoto Koharu)
Friedrich First Son
Louisa Second Daughter
Kurt Second Son
Brigitta Third Daughter
Marta Fourth Daughter
Gretl Fifth Daughter


LIESL!
Liesl's Boyfriend Rolf (Shima Sousuke)
You are sixteen
going on seventeen
Fellows will fall in line
I am seventeen going on eighteen
I'll take care of you...
Also Directing.


Oooh~!
YES!
THAT WAS PERFECT, YOU TWO!!
CLAP
CLAP
That got my heart racing!
Sorry my hand was sweaty.
Nah, you're fine.
AWW.
SHING
MUST BE NICE, PLAYING THE LOVE INTEREST.
When the tum! ♪ hits, jump down.
BUT I CAN'T BEAT THOSE TWO TOGETHER.
KINOMOTO-SAN IS ON THE DANCE TEAM, AND SHE'S A GREAT SINGER, TOO.
Also, everybody knows Kinomoto-san is crazy about her boyfriend. That's probably why there hasn't been any backlash from the other girls.
Other class.
Take care of Koharu for me!
Ah ha ha!
PEACE TREATY.
No one's said it, but I'm sure they're all thinking it!!


SCURRY
SCURRY
Wow!
YOU'RE ALL WORKING HARD.
KEEP IT UP~!
NISHINO-KUN, CAN YOU PASS THESE OUT TO EVERYONE?
You got it.
MITSUMI.
Hey, Iwakura-san? If I wanted to borrow some plywood...
Oh! You just have to...
I KNOW SHE'S BUSY AND ALL...
BUT DOES SHE KNOW HOW MANY COUPLES GET TOGETHER DURING FESTIVALS?
No, no, no!
SHE DOESN'T NEED ME WORRYING ABOUT HER.
Eee hee hee!
I got paint on me!
BANG
BANG
I'm gonna go grab some card-board.



THAT LOOKS LIKE FUN.
Running things behind the scenes is great and all, but I'd like to do that too, while I have the chance.
After all, third-years don't put on festival events.
Hmm... We can't cut this part.
ASANO-SAN?
PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED HELP WITH ANYTHING.
Really?!
IS THAT AN OFFER?!
OUR PLAYTIME KEEPS RUNNING OVER AND WE'VE RUN OUT OF PLACES TO TRIM.
WE'RE GONNA RE-REVIEW THE SCREENPLAY ONE LAST TIME AND TALK ABOUT IT TOMORROW.
COULD YOU WEIGH IN, IWAKURA-SAN?


Here's the video we ran through yester-day...
Wow.
THIS IS A BIG JOB!
OH, BUT I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY.
IT'S OKAY IF YOU CAN'T.
Oooh
NO WORRIES!
I CAN MAKE THE MEETING AS LONG AS IT'S BEFORE SCHOOL OR DURING LUNCH!
Mweh heh!
I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU! THANKS!
I WAS JUST HOPING TO BE PART OF THIS!
MNGH... AFTER WORKING ON PAMPHLETS LAST NIGHT...
I'M A LITTLE SLEEPY.
STUB
ACK !!


WATCH OUT!
YOU OKAY?
Hey!
CAREFUL! WE'RE USING NAILS HERE.
OOPS!
S-S-SORRY!
IF I BROKE ANY OF THESE SET PIECES, IT WOULD BE A DISASTER.
HAA~
......



ARE YOU TIRED, MITSUMI-CHAN?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE A BREAK.
I'M JUST FINE!
THANK YOU!
NO, I MEAN, I THINK YOU'RE TAKING ON TOO MANY JOBS.
MAYBE YOU COULD DELEGATE SOME?
I'M HAVING FUN.
I ENJOY BEING DEPENDED ON...
AND THINGS LIKE THIS DON'T HAPPEN EVERY DAY. I WANT TO EXPERIENCE IT ALL!
WELL... OKAY.

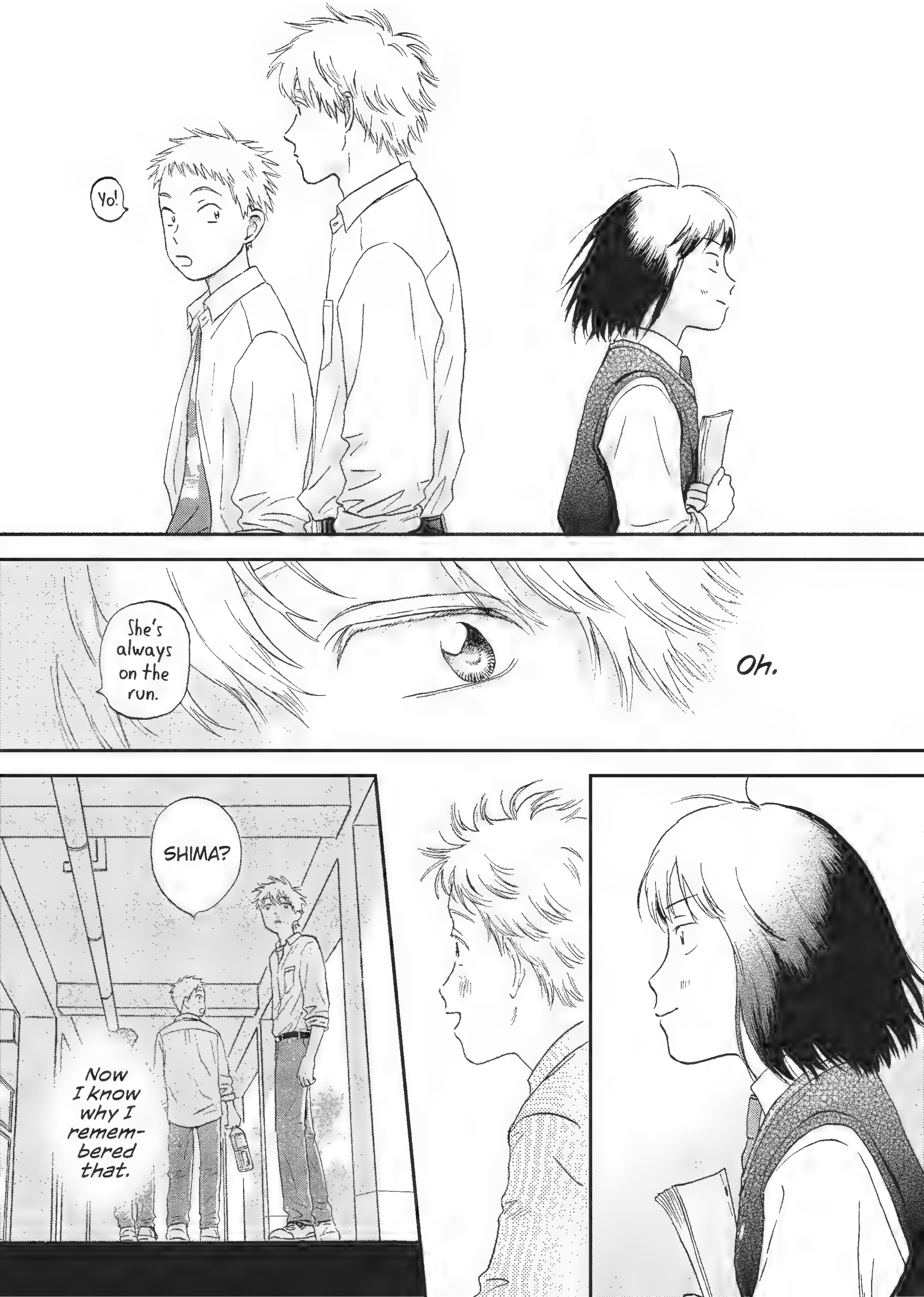

I'M OFF. GOOD LUCK WITH REHEARSALS!
THANKS.
パタ PATTER
パタ PATTER
"YOU ALWAYS HAD SO MUCH FUN.
"MORE THAN ANY OF US. BACK THEN, I MEAN."
CUT! THAT'S A WRAP!
NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL ACTING!
LET'S TAKE A QUICK BREATHER.
MOM!
WERE YOU WATCHING, MOM?
I SURE WAS, SOUSUKE.

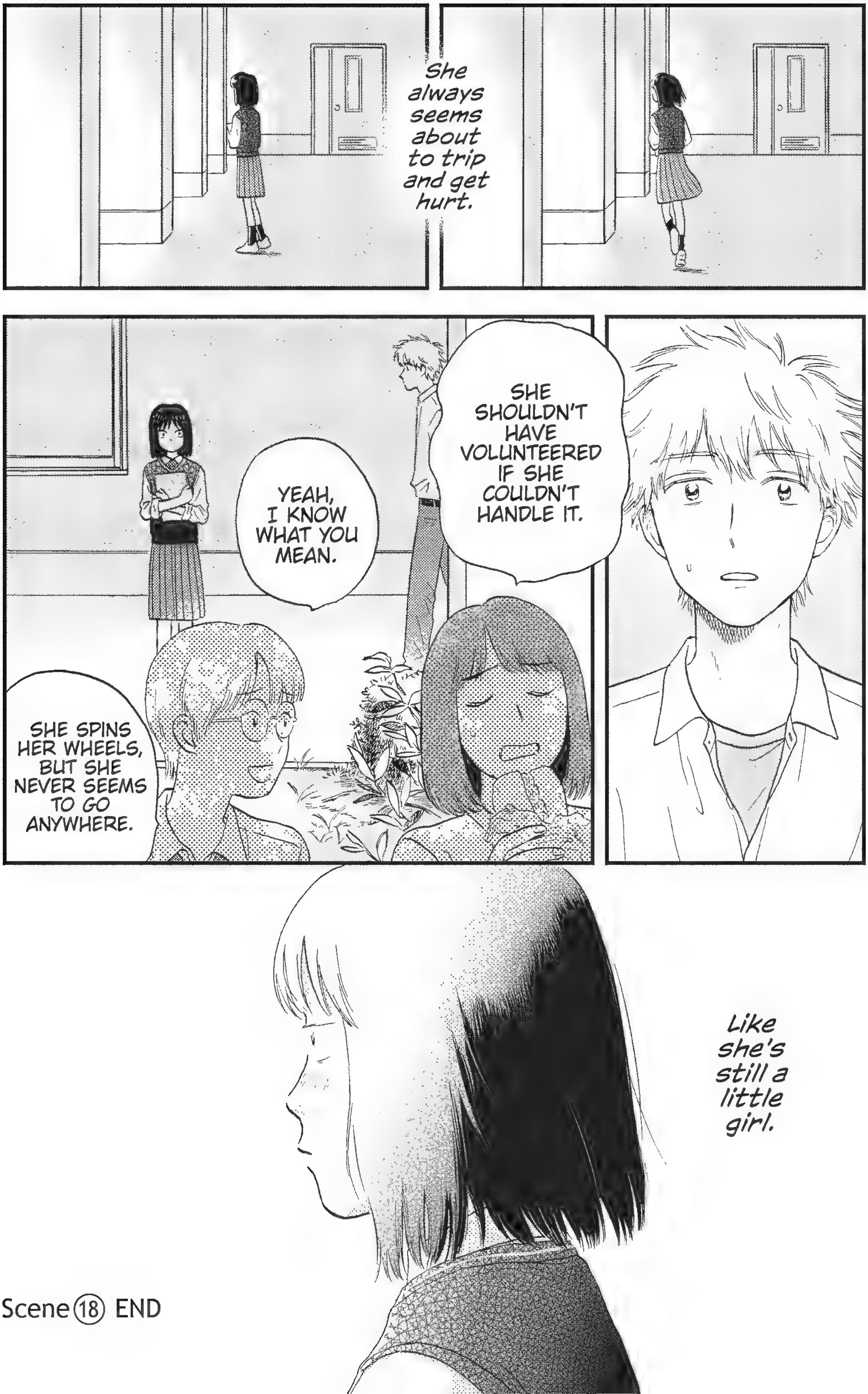

YOU WERE AMAZING.
YOU REALLY GAVE IT YOUR ALL!
WHY DID I... REMEMBER THAT?
WOOOW! WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?
Ahh... VOTING BALLOTS, HMM?
UH-HUH.
THEY NEEDED EXTRAS ON THE DOUBLE.
しゃき SNIP
しゃき SNIP


JUST DON'T OVERWORK YOURSELF, YOU HEAR?
SLIDE
I WON'T.
SNIP
SNIP
NIGHTY-NIGHT!
OH!
I CAN WATCH THE VIDEO OF THE PLAY WHILE I'M WORKING.
NOD
NOD
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP...
TWEET
TWEET...


RATTLE
G-GOOD MORNING! I'M SO SORRY I'M LATE!!
MORNING, IWAKURA-SAN.
THUH... THE MEETING?
HUFF!
PUFF!
THE BELL'S ALREADY RUNG, SO WE WERE JUST WRAPPING UP.
HAA!
HAA!
DID YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?
A-ACTUALLY, I, UM...
I'M SO SORRY! I NODDED OFF LAST NIGHT, SO I DIDN'T GET TO WATCH VERY MUCH!
OH... GOTCHA.
IT HAPPENS.
I CAN'T BELIEEEEVE MYSELF!


I'LL START WATCHING IT RIGHT NOW.
HEY, MITSUMI. IT'S LUNCH-TIME.
Let's eat!
MM-HM.
And then...
WHY'D SHE BARGE IN LIKE THAT IF SHE DIDN'T EVEN WATCH IT? YOU KNOW?
THAT'S THE THING ABOUT IWAKURA-SAN.


Yo!
She's always on the run.
Oh.
SHIMA?
Now I know why I remembered that.

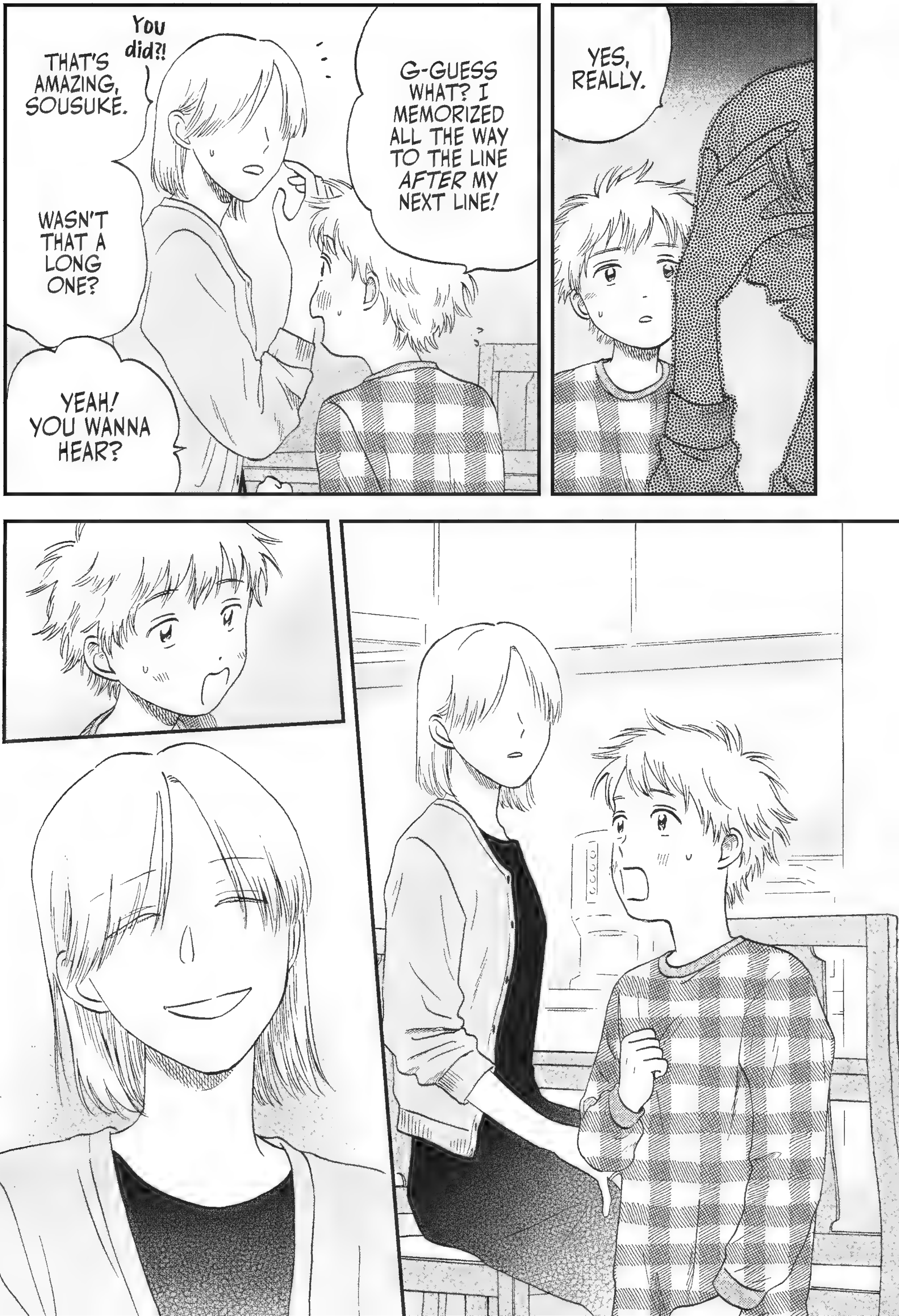

She always seems about to trip and get hurt.
SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE VOLUNTEERED IF SHE COULDN'T HANDLE IT.
YEAH, I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
SHE SPINS HER WHEELS, BUT SHE NEVER SEEMS TO GO ANYWHERE.
Like she's still a little girl.

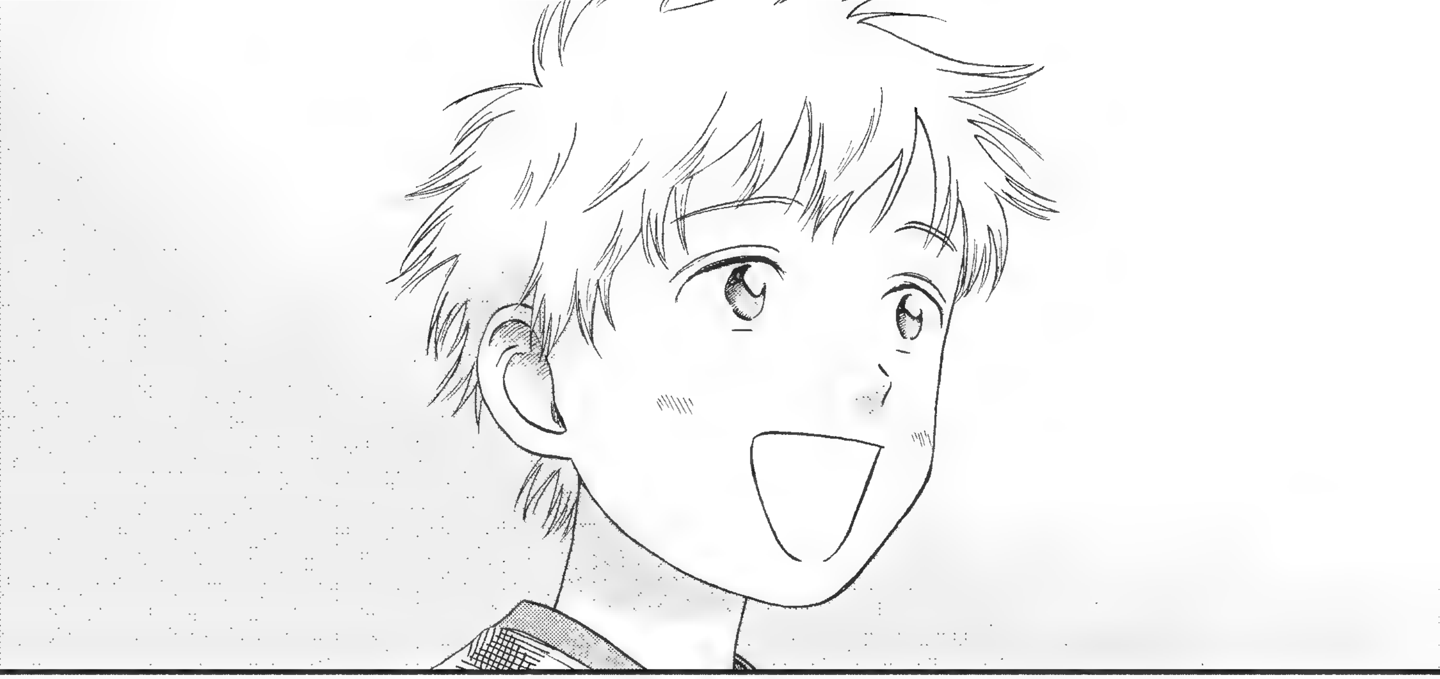
Scene 18 END

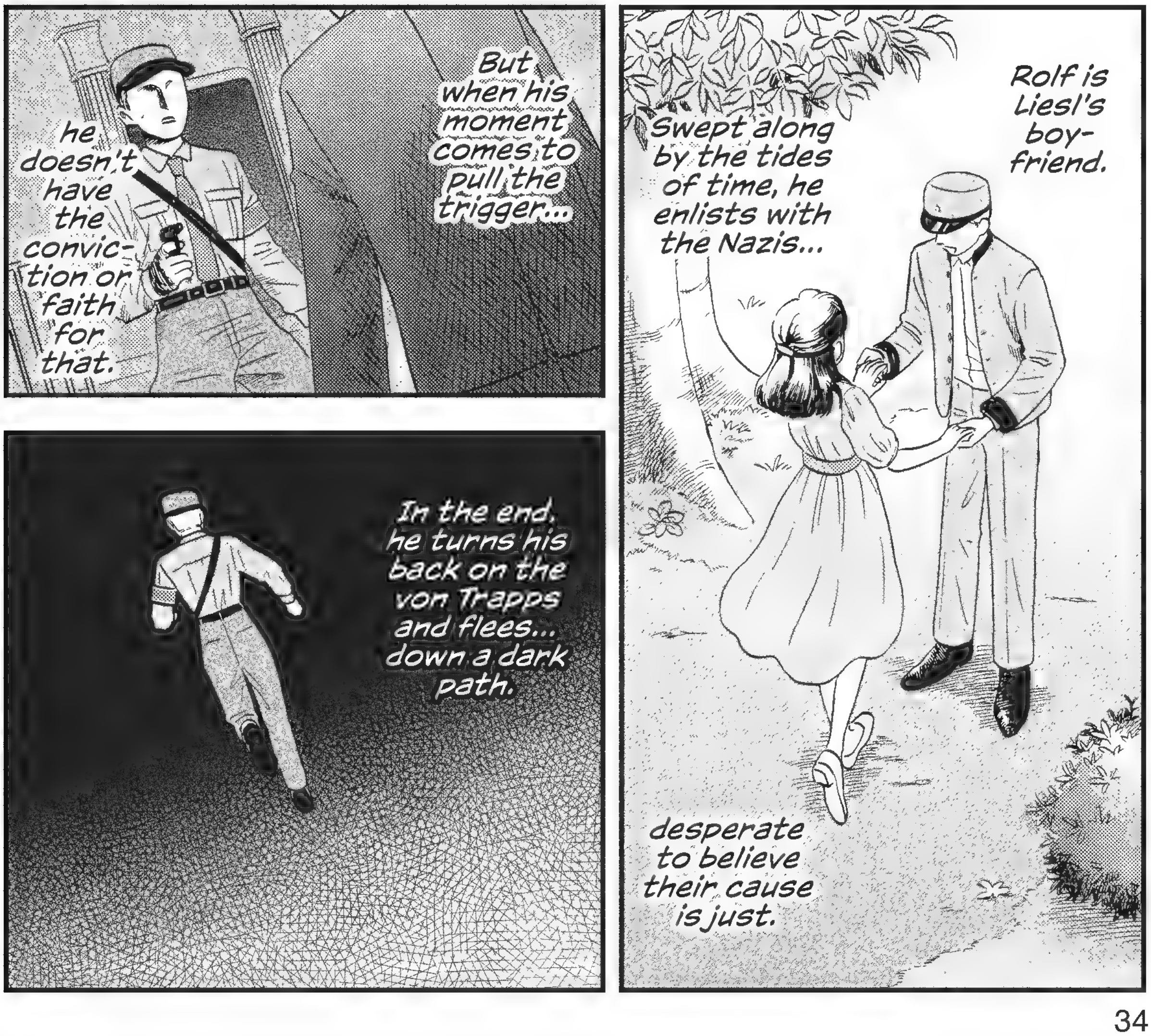


Scene ⑲ *Plip, drip...* A Tearstained Dance


YOU DIDN'T NEED TO CALL MY WORKPLACE ABOUT IT!
THEN *YOU* SHOULDN'T HAVE LIED ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS TRIP!
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO KEEP BRINGING THAT UP?!
FORGET IT! I'M GOING TO THE BAR!
......
MOM?
IS EVERY-THING OKAY...?
IT'S FINE, SWEETIE.
WE JUST HAD A LITTLE FIGHT.
REALLY?


YES, REALLY.
G-GUESS WHAT? I MEMORIZED ALL THE WAY TO THE LINE *AFTER* MY NEXT LINE!
You did?!
THAT'S AMAZING, SOUSUKE.
WASN'T THAT A LONG ONE?
YEAH! YOU WANNA HEAR?




Rolf is Liesl's boy-friend.
Swept along by the tides of time, he enlists with the Nazis...
desperate to believe their cause is just.
But when his moment comes to pull the trigger...
he doesn't have the convic-tion or faith for that.
In the end, he turns his back on the von Trapps and flees... down a dark path.


I couldn't have asked for a better role.
AND HERE'S THE OTHER THING...
WAVE
ひらっ



WHAT'LL IT BE?
HUH?
VERILY, DAME FORTUNE HATH SHOWERED ME WITH HER BOUNTY THIS PAST SUMMER.
PRAY, SELECT THE BEVERAGE OF THY CHOOSING.
HUH?! UMM...
O-OKAY! I'LL HAVE, UH...THE ORANGE JELLY!
What's with the high-falutin' talk?!
HARD TO BELIEVE IT'S ALREADY OCTOBER, HUH?
YEAH.
Warm and balmy.
もやぁ...
DRIFT...
SHIMA-KUN...
I PASSED HIM EARLIER, DIDN'T I?


So did he hear Asano-san...
and then come check up on me?
If so, that was nice of him.
So, on the way to school, I...
Oh!
SORRY. I WAS DAY-DREAMING.
OH, RIGHT! I SAW THE VIDEO OF YOUR REHEARSAL!
AH...
YOUR ROLF WAS VEEERY CHARMING!


AH HA... WELL...
I WOULDN'T CALL ROLF CHARMING.
OH.
"CLASS THREE WILL BE PUTTING ON A PLAY!"
"I'M IN~!"
"NOW WE'RE TALKING!"
"WITH APOLOGIES TO SENPAI, I'M NOT INTERESTED IN ACTING ANYMORE.
"WHEN I WAS A KID, I THREW MYSELF INTO IT, BUT NOT BECAUSE IT WAS FUN.


"IT MADE MY MOM HAPPY."
ぼろ PLIP


OOGH... MMF!
MNGH...
ぼろ PLIP
ぼろ PLIP...
WHAT?! WHAT'S WRONG?!
I'M... SHO...
WHAT? WHAT IS IT?
SHO...!
UHHH...
He's making her cry!
He made a girl cry.
SHIMA-KUN...
YOU DIDN'T WANT TO BE IN THE PLAY AT ALL, DID YOU?
SNIFF
FEELING ANY BETTER NOW?
UH-HUH...
HONK


I THOUGHT SOMETHING WAS WRONG...
BUT I TOLD MYSELF IT WAS NO BIG DEAL.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT...
AFTER YOU TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR CAREER.
I'M REALLY SORRY...
What?
HEY, NO! IT'S ENTIRELY MY FAULT FOR NOT BEING CLEAR.
I'M... SORRY FOR MORE THAN THAT, THOUGH.
YOU HEARD WHAT THEY WERE SAYING IN THE COURTYARD, RIGHT?


I GOT SO WRAPPED UP IN MY OWN AMBITIONS THAT I CAUSED TROUBLE.
Mweh heh!
I COULDN'T EVEN DELIVER ON AN OFFER I MADE *MYSELF*.
NOW I SEE...
HOW HORRIBLY INCONSID-ERATE I'VE BEEN.
BUT HERE *YOU* ARE, SHIMA-KUN, DEALING WITH YOUR OWN PROBLEMS AND STILL CHECKING UP ON ME.
ORANGE JELLY


HEY, DON'T GET TOO DOWN...
SNIFF
HIC!
......
I KNOW SHE'S SERIOUS ABOUT HER AMBITIONS...
but the more people in your life, the more conflict you'll have.
That's basic statistics. She'd have lots more as an adult.
If this is all it takes to make her cry... can she really make it in Tokyo?
In politics?


Sure, school is more fun with you around...
but I feel like you'd be happier by the mountains and sea.


Please don't ever get hurt.


Never change who you are inside.


SNIFFLE
UM, BUT YOUR ROLF REALLY WAS GREAT. I MEANT THAT.
THE SCENE WHERE HE DANCES WITH LIESL WAS SUPER CUTE.
Oh.
THANKS.
HE USED TO BE CRAZY ABOUT HER. I CAN'T BELIEVE HE TURNED SO COLD, SO FAST.
Right?
THAT'S ROLF FOR YOU.
THAT'S WHY HE WENT FOR THE DARK SIDE.
HMM...
HE DIDN'T HURT ANYBODY IN THE END, THOUGH.

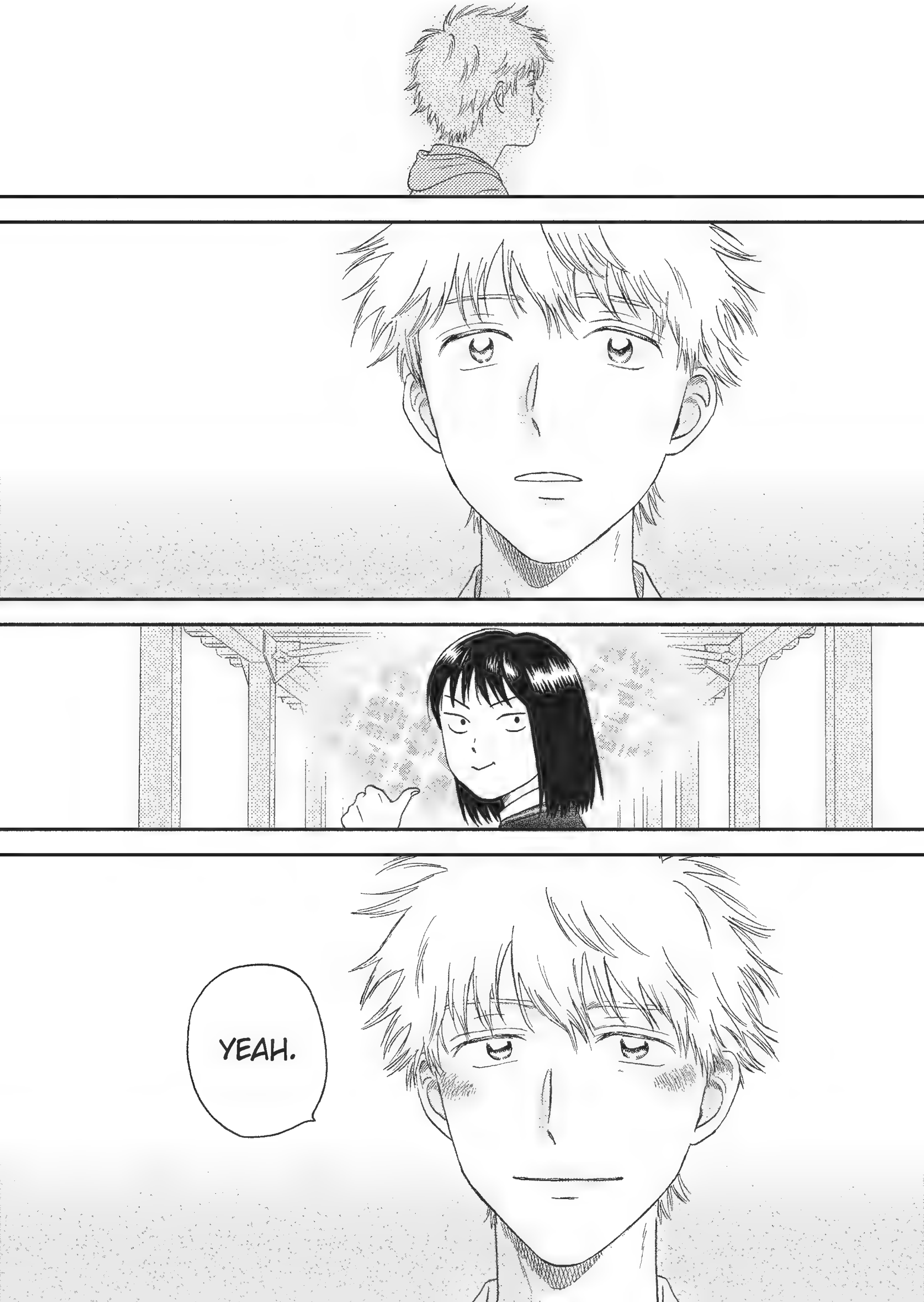

BUT ROLF IS ONLY ONE YEAR OLDER THAN HER.
THE STORY TRIES TO PAINT LIESL AS A CHILD...
MAYBE THE STORY DIDN'T *WANT* TO SHOW THE PATHS THEY TOOK IN THE END.


MAYBE.
WANNA GIVE IT A TRY?
HUH?
YOU ARE SIXTEEN, GOING ON SEVENTEEN...
BABY, IT'S TIME TO THINK~! ♪
BWOOF!
ぶふっ
HYAAA!

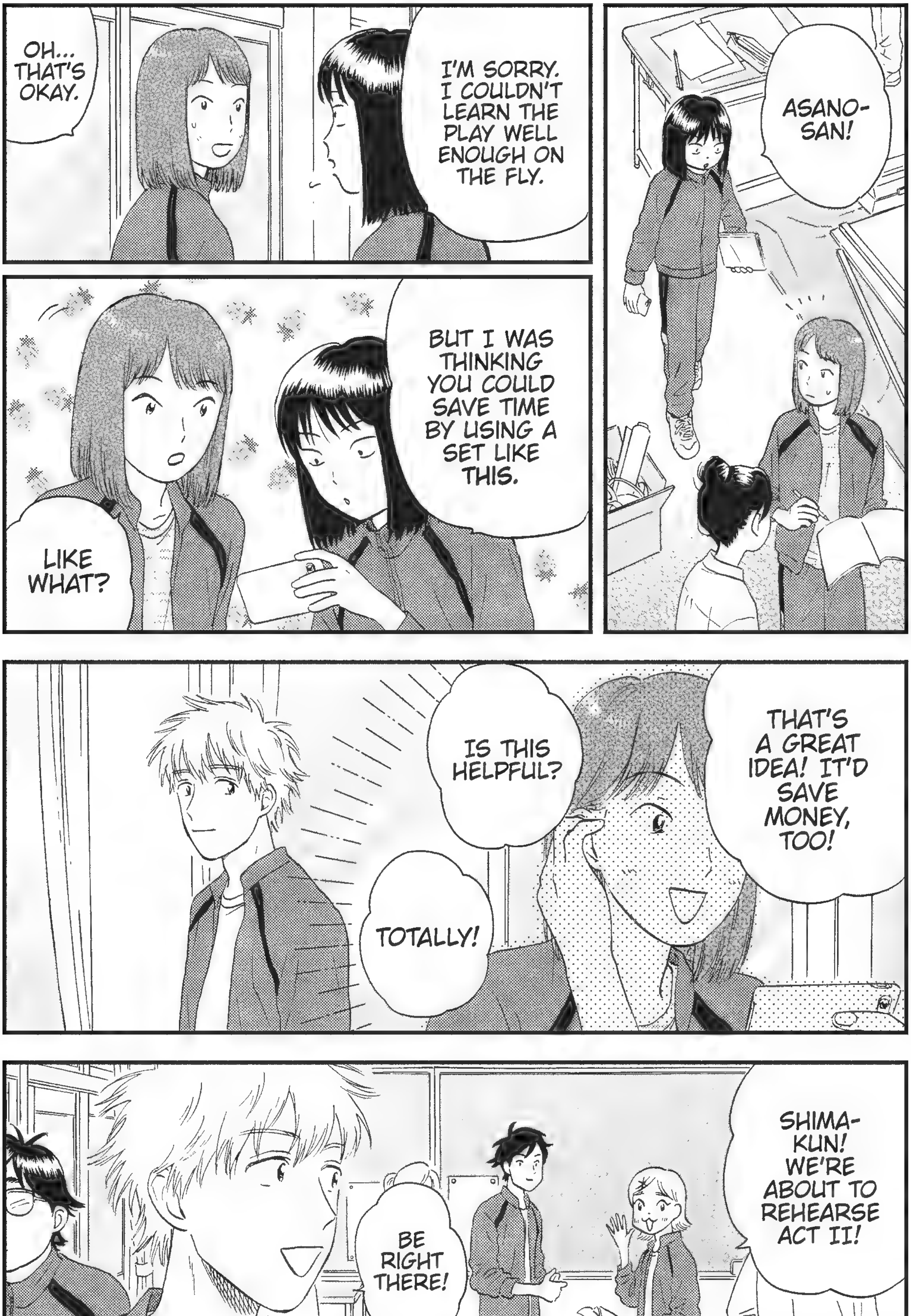

I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU~! ♪
Okay!
THIS IS WHERE LIESL STANDS UP.
MWEE HEE HEE.
NOW, UP THE STAIRS, AND...
I'LL DEPEND ON YOU~! ♪
I AM SIXTEEN, GOING ON SEVENTEEN...
SOME-THING, SOME-THING, SOME-THING!
AH HA HA! I DON'T KNOW HOW IT GOES.
Phew!


Eek!
THAT WAS A LITTLE EMBARRASSING, BUT FUN!
Ah ha ha!
THANKS, SHIMA-KUN.
YOU'RE A NATURAL, MITSUMI-CHAN.
I'M ALL BETTER NOW!
LET'S HEAD BACK TO CLASS.
YOU DON'T WANT TO STOP BY THE NURSE'S OFFICE?
WHY?
I JUST THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE AWKWARD, FACING ASANO-SAN AND STUFF.
HMM, MAYBE A LITTLE.
BUT I STILL NEED TO TALK TO HER.


YOU KNOW, SHIMA-KUN...
I'M THE KIND OF PERSON WHO TRIPS UP A LOT.
BUT THAT MAKES ME A PRO AT BRUSHING MYSELF OFF AND JUMPING BACK UP!


YEAH.


THAT'S JUST WHO YOU ARE.


ASANO-SAN!
I'M SORRY. I COULDN'T LEARN THE PLAY WELL ENOUGH ON THE FLY.
OH... THAT'S OKAY.
BUT I WAS THINKING YOU COULD SAVE TIME BY USING A SET LIKE THIS.
LIKE WHAT?
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA! IT'D SAVE MONEY, TOO!
IS THIS HELPFUL?
TOTALLY!
SHIMA-KUN! WE'RE ABOUT TO REHEARSE ACT II!
BE RIGHT THERE!


HAPPY BIRTH- DAAAY...
TO YOOOU!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SHIMA!
CLAP
WOW. THANKS, YOU GUYS.
CLAP
YOU ARE SIXTEEN...
PFFT!
Born in August.
SAME AGE AS YOUR GIRLFRIEND, LIESL-TAN! INNAT CUTE?
OWWW! OW, OW, OW!
DUDE! IT WASN'T THAT BAD!!
HEAD LOCK.
GRIK
GRIK
GRIK
BUT I STILL FELT LIKE IT.


ガー
WHRRM
The Sound of Music
Tsubame West High School Class 1-
Date October 2
Place 2nd Floo


FATHER, MAY I BE EXCUSED?
MM-HM.
...!
...!
"YOU ALWAYS HAD SO MUCH FUN.
"MORE THAN ANY OF US."


1-2
COMEDY SHOW!!
1-1
Come on by!
RAKUGO SHOW!
COSPLAY Café
3-1
Gym
4F
Music Room
TSUBAME WEST
SCHOOL FESTIVAL

Scene ⑲ END

Scene ⑳ *Woo-hoo!* An Animated Festival ⟨1⟩




GOOD MORNING!
TSUBAME WEST SCHOOL FESTIVAL
パ・パ・パー♪
BA TUM
BOARD GAME Club
3F
Please come check out...
Rakugo Club
And more!
Takoyaki! Get your takoyaki here!
AH HA HA!
West High
PTA
ドッ ドッ
TADUM TADUM
Game's about to start!


TSUBAME WEST
It's the first day of the festival.
Here you go!
Please get your indoor slippers over here!
And it's already off to a great start!
WHEW! HECK OF A TURNOUT THIS YEAR, HUH?
RIGHT?
I CAN SEE WHY, THOUGH. IT'S NICE AND WARM OUT!


WELL, SOME PEOPLE NEED TEN HOURS A DAY, BUT OTHERS JUST NEED TWO.
ME, I STUDIED WHENEVER I COULD FOCUS.
BUT I ALSO TOOK PLENTY OF BREAKS. THE KEY IS TO FIND THE RIGHT BALANCE.
H-HELLO! I...I'M HOPING TO TEST INTO TSUBAME WEST NEXT YEAR.
H-HOW MUCH SHOULD I STUDY IF I WANT TO PASS THE EXAM?
STAFF
YOU REALLY SEEM TO HAVE IT TOGETHER.
Oooh.
ANY OTHER QUES-TIONS?
OH, UM, TH-THANKS.
DON'T YOU HAVE THE NEXT SHIFT AT THE ORIENTATION TABLE?
KAZAKAMI-SAN?
OOPS. FORGOT.
I'M SORRY, I HAVE TO GO.
Th-thank you!
If you don't mind...
MRRR
OH!
13R


WE HAVE VISITORS WHO NEED TO TALK TO YOU!
THANKS FOR REMINDING ME.
HEY, THE KID NEEDED SOMEONE TO TALK TO.
WERE YOU GONNA STAY THERE CHATTING IF I HADN'T SAID ANY-THING?!
HUFFY
HUFFY
......!!
TAKAMINE-SENPAI IS ALWAYS STEAMED THESE DAYS.
YOU'LL BARELY MAKE IT IF YOU DON'T RUN!!
BUT I'LL MAKE IT.
Kazakami-senpai is gifted and capable, I'm sure...
but Takamine-senpai has been in student government since she was a first-year. I can't help thinking she'd be a better fit for the job.


The festival is such a big deal that some students risk their chances for college just to participate.
I'm sure Takamine-senpai...
wanted to be president now more than anything...
BREAK TIME, IWAKURA-SAN.
THANK YOU!
13R
THE SOUND OF MUSIC
ADMISSION
ADMISSION


Doe, a deer, a female deer...
Ray, a drop of golden sun...
You're gonna be in the music festival!
Wow!
All right!
If you love this man, it doesn't mean you love God any less, Maria.
Edelweiss...
Edelweiss...

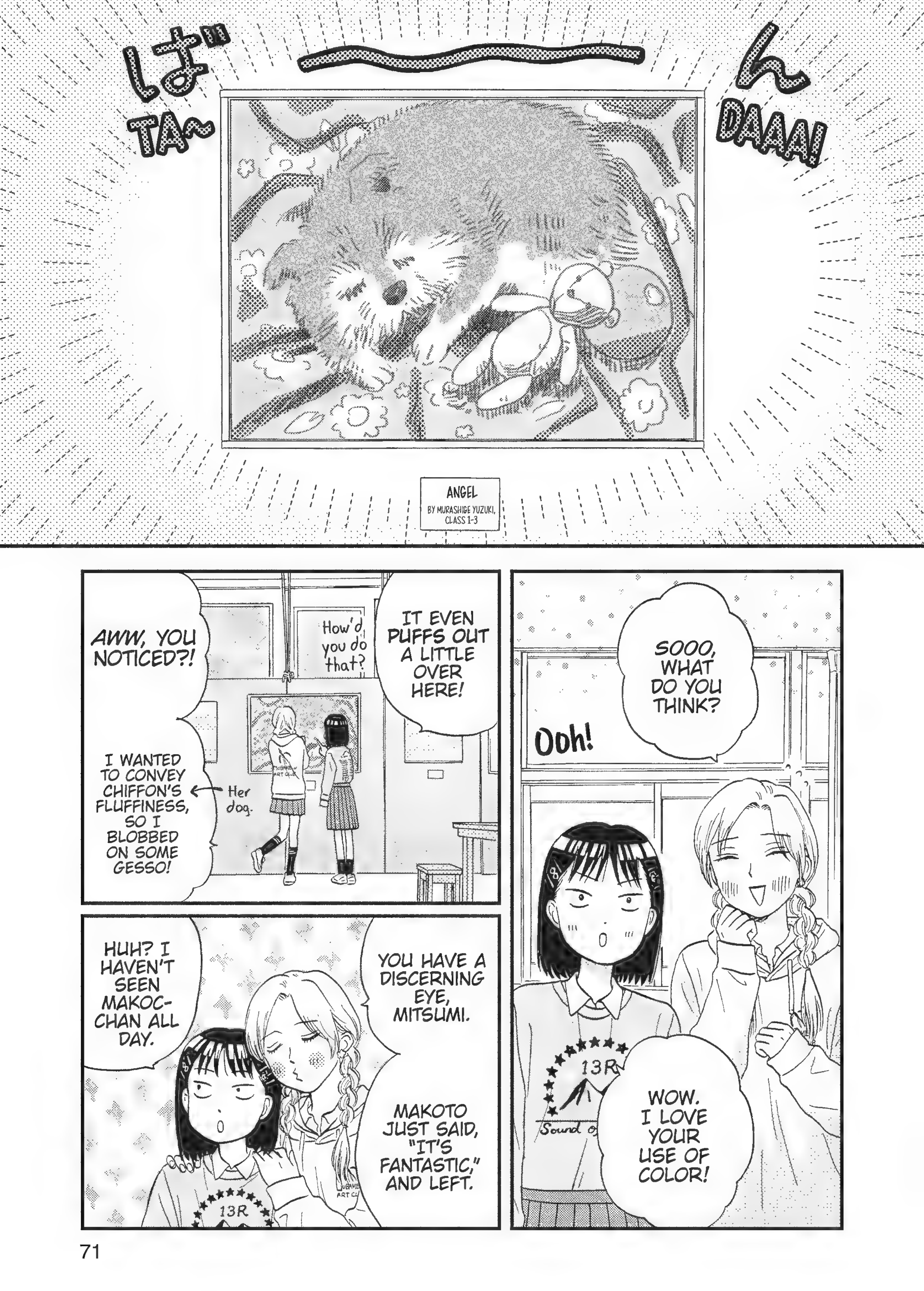

COME AWAY WITH US.
YOU GIVE THAT TO ME, ROLF.
YOU'LL NEVER...
LIEUTEN-ANT! LIEUTEN-ANT, THEY'RE HERE!
BE ONE OF THEM.
カチー
SNAP


わっ WOW!
パチ CLAP
パチ CLAP
パチ CLAP
Climb every mountain~♪
Thanks!
Ah ha ha!
ガヤ CHATTER
Thank you for coming!
That was amazing!
ガヤ CHATTER

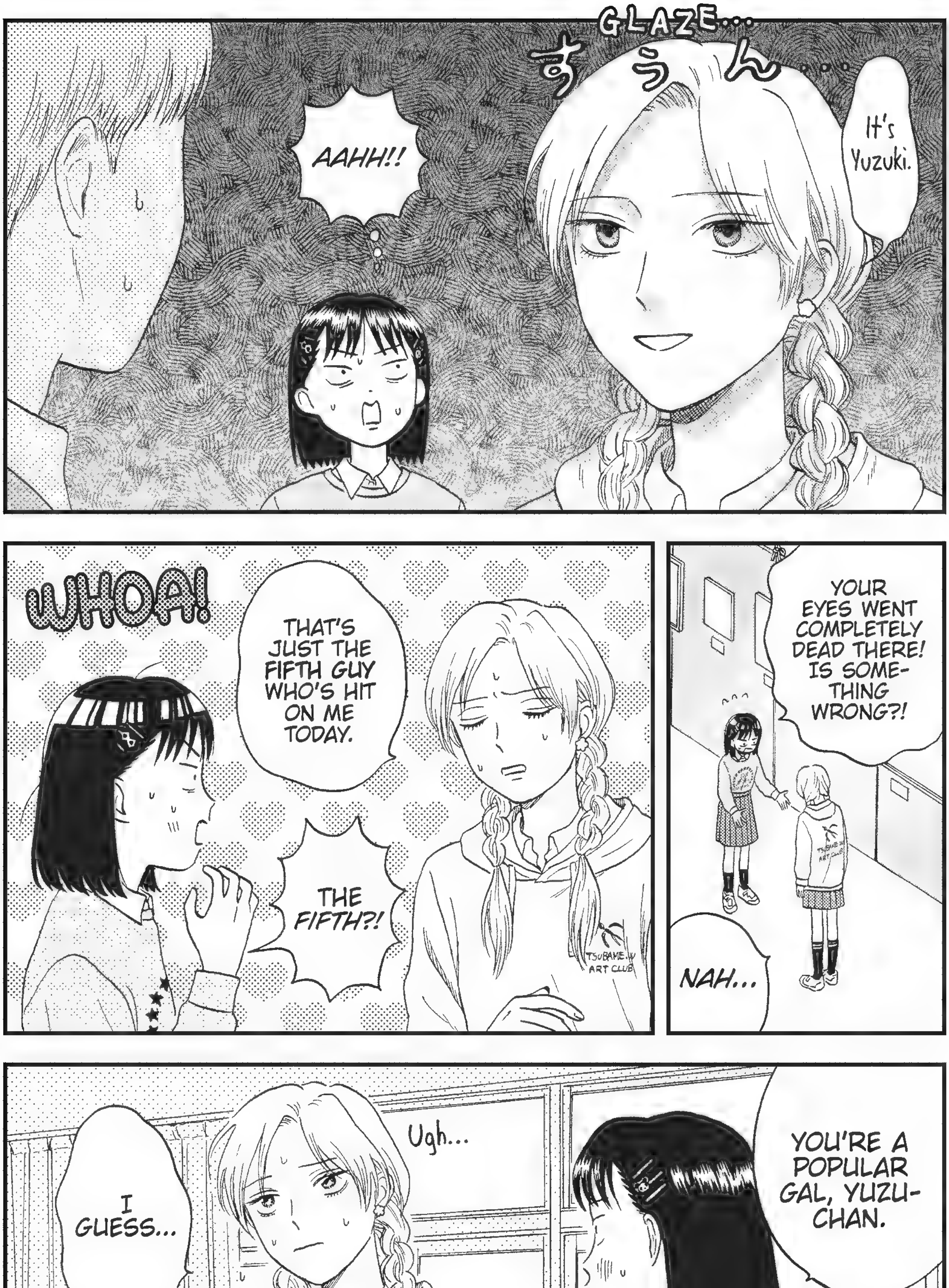

I THINK SHIMA-KUN ENJOYED HIMSELF, TOO.
ガヤ GATTER
Phew!
ガヤ GATTER
ARE YOU ON BREAK, MITSUMI?
MIKA-CHAN!
YOU WERE GREAT BACK THERE.
EVERYONE SEEMED TO LOVE THE SHOW!
Heh heh!
NOT TO BRAG, BUT IT'S THE MOST POPULAR FIRST-YEAR EVENT.
SOOO, IS NAO-SAN GONNA COME SEE THE FESTIVAL?
NO, SHE HAS A PHOTO SHOOT THIS SATURDAY.
AWWW.
WHY? ARE YOU TWO SOMEHOW EVEN CLOSER?
WELL, WE'RE INSTA-FRIENDS.
SO THAT'S WHY YOU--
HEY, MIKA!


Oh my gawd!
Heya!
YUNA! NOCCHI! IT'S BEEN AAAGES!
TOLDJA WE'D COME!
THAT WAS, LIKE, TOTALLY AMAZING!
AWWW! YOU GUUUYS! THANKS!
Oh!
TALK TO YOU LATER, MITSUMI!
YEP.
So, how've you been?
OH.
Come on!!
Scoot in closer! Closer!
ADMISSION
Stop. You're embarrassing me.
13R
Sound of Music
When's the live show?
Um... around three PM.


FOR EVERYONE HERE...
TOKYO IS HOME.


ば〜ん
TA~ DAAA!
ANGEL
BY MURASHIGE YUZUKI, CLASS 1-3
SOOO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Ooh!
WOW. I LOVE YOUR USE OF COLOR!
IT EVEN PUFFS OUT A LITTLE OVER HERE!
How'd you do that?
AWW, YOU NOTICED?!
I WANTED TO CONVEY CHIFFON'S FLUFFINESS, SO I BLOBBED ON SOME GESSO!
Her dog.
YOU HAVE A DISCERNING EYE, MITSUMI.
MAKOTO JUST SAID, "IT'S FANTASTIC," AND LEFT.
HUH? I HAVEN'T SEEN MAKOC-CHAN ALL DAY.


SHE'S SHOWING AROUND SOME FRIENDS FROM JUNIOR HIGH.
THEY'RE GONNA CHECK OUT THE EXHIBITS, TOO.
STING
OOF!
E-EVEN MAKOC-CHAN...?!
W-WOOOW!
THROB THROB
WHAT A WORK OF ART!
DID YOU PAINT THIS?
TSUBAME.W ART CLUB
YES, I DID. THANK YOU.
H-HEY, I THINK I KNOW YOU. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE IN THE ART CLUB!
TSUBAME.W ART CLUB
MURASHIGE... SORRY, WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST NAME AGAIN?
HUH?!
AM I WITNESSING A PICK-UP?!
13R

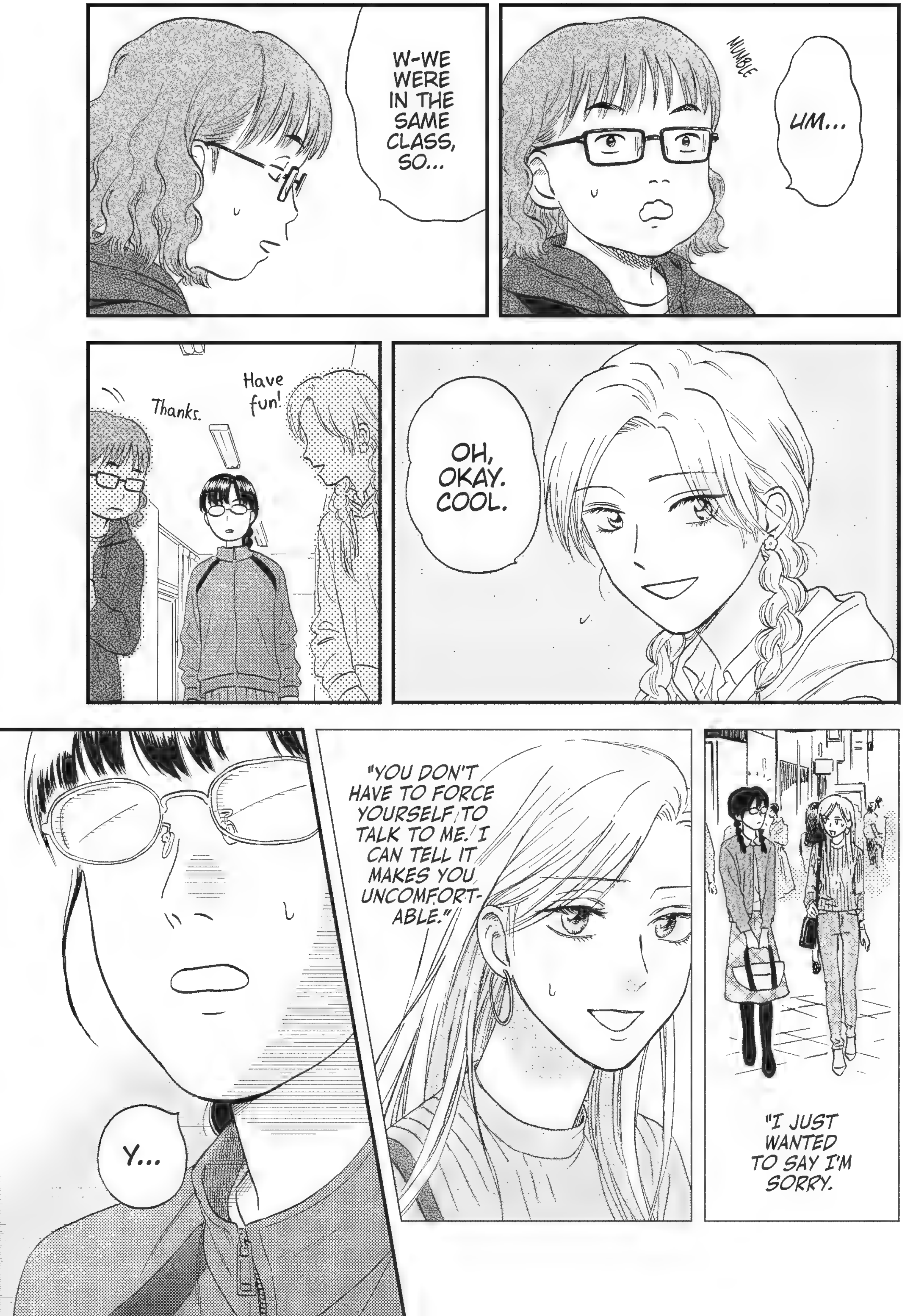

GLAZE...
すうん...
It's Yuzuki.
AAHH!!
YOUR EYES WENT COMPLETELY DEAD THERE! IS SOMETHING WRONG?!
NAH...
THAT'S JUST THE FIFTH GUY WHO'S HIT ON ME TODAY.
THE FIFTH?!
WHOA!
YOU'RE A POPULAR GAL, YUZU-CHAN.
Ugh...
I GUESS...


I'M PROUD OF THAT PAINTING. WHEN THEY SAY I'M THE IMPRESSIVE ONE...
IT'S NOT MUCH OF A COMPLIMENT.
I'M JUST SICK OF PEOPLE PRAISING IT WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING AT IT.
HELLO?
OH, HELLO!
Oh!
BUT DON'T TELL ANYONE I SAID THAT.
IT'S KINDA MEAN.
O-OKAY.



Take your time and look around.
Thank you.
BA-DMP
BA-DMP
OHH, I GET IT.
I'VE NEVER GOTTEN THAT KIND OF ATTENTION, SO MY FIRST THOUGHT WAS "WOW."
"I DIDN'T GET ALONG WITH MY CLASSMATES IN JUNIOR HIGH.
"THEY ALWAYS DRAGGED ME INTO THEIR BOYFRIEND DRAMA."
BUT EVERYONE'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT.
I HEAR THE HOME EC CLUB'S CHURROS ARE REAL GOOD.
WANT TO GET SOME LATER?
OOOH, DO I EVER!
SPECIAL DELIVERY.
Churros.
WHOA NELLY!

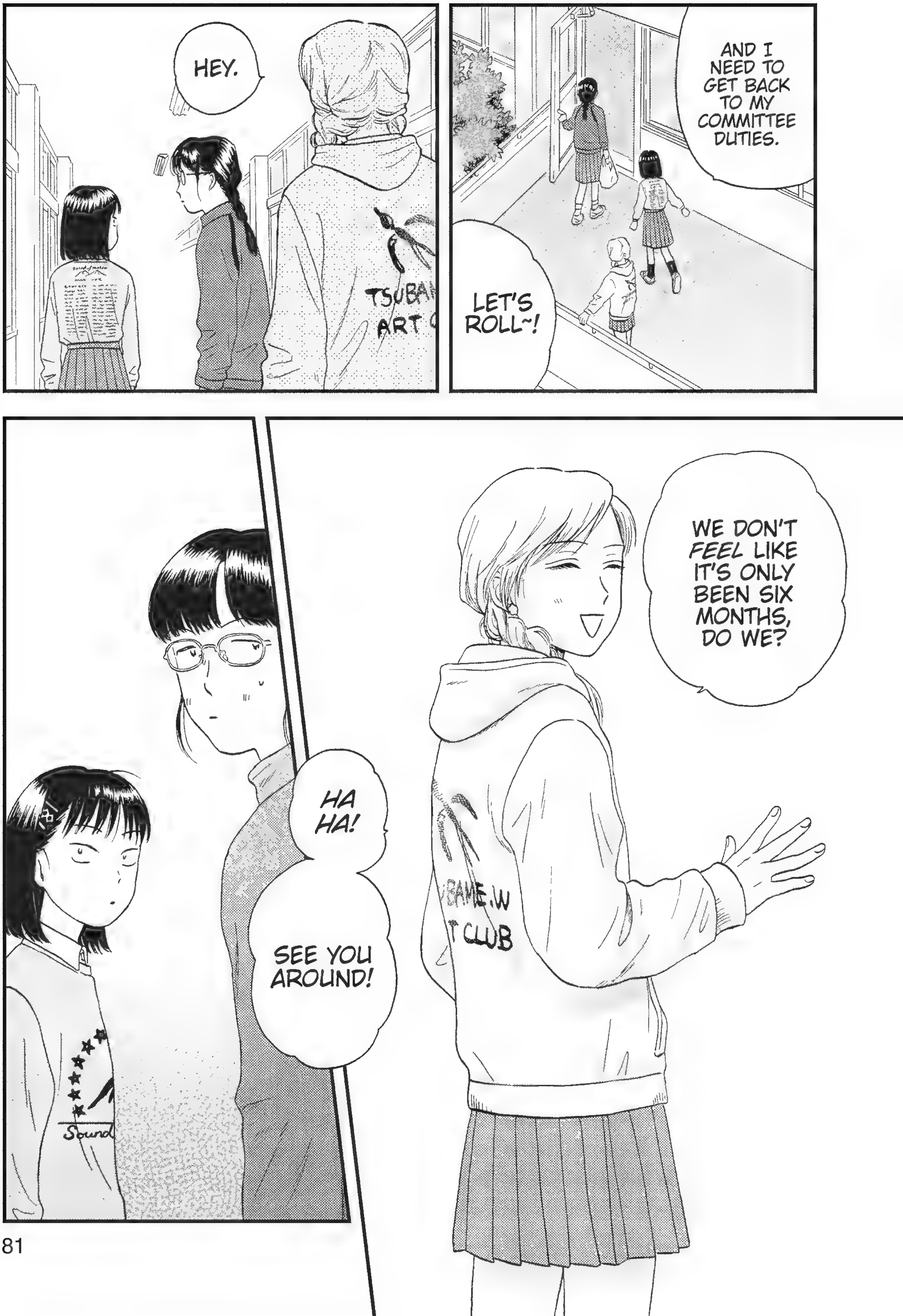

Oh, right.
THESE ARE MY FRIENDS FROM JUNIOR HIGH.
MOCCHAN AND SUGITA.
BOW ペコ...
H-HELLO...
THE FOOD STALLS ARE SWARMED TODAY.
IT LOOKED LIKE THEY'D SELL OUT, SO I GOT ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF YOU.
My shift starts soon.
WOO-HOO! THANKS!
That'll be two hundred yen.
'Kay.
I'M MURA-SHIGE.
I'M IWAKURA!
N-NICE TO MEET YOU.
So!
HOW DID YOU BECOME FRIENDS WITH MAKOTO?


W-WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS, SO...
MUMBLE
UM...
Thanks.
Have fun!
OH, OKAY. COOL.
Y...
"YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO TALK TO ME. I CAN TELL IT MAKES YOU UNCOMFORT-ABLE."
"I JUST WANTED TO SAY I'M SORRY.


YUZU READS EVERY BOOK I LOAN HER, AND WE DISCUSS THEM RIGHT AWAY.
13R
Sound of Music
ART CLUB
A-ALSO, SHE...
SHE PAINTED THAT PICTURE OVER THERE. SEE?


SHE LOVES HER DOG SO MUCH SHE WANTED TO IMMORTALIZE HIM.
SEE THE TEXTURE ON HIS FUR? SHE SAYS IT'S TO HIGHLIGHT HIS CUTENESS.
ANYWAY, YOU CAN SEE THE LOVE SHE PUT INTO IT.
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK, WHAT SORT OF DOG IS CHIFFON, ANYWAY?


A YORKSHIRE TERRIER. ♡
WHEW! YOU KNOW...
THEY KINDA REMIND ME OF HOW I USED TO BE, WAY BACK WHEN.
Ah ha ha!
AIN'T THAT THE TRUTH!
IT ALREADY SEEMS SOOO LONG AGO.
THEY'RE GREAT ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW THEM, OKAY?!
OH, WE CAN TELL.
HARD TO BELIEVE IT'S ONLY BEEN SIX MONTHS.
ONLY HALF A YEAR. HUNH.
ALL RIGHT, I'M OFF TO HELM THE LIT CLUB'S TABLE.


HEY.
TSUBA
ART
AND I NEED TO GET BACK TO MY COMMITTEE DUTIES.
LET'S ROLL~!
WE DON'T *FEEL* LIKE IT'S ONLY BEEN SIX MONTHS, DO WE?
HA HA!
SEE YOU AROUND!
T CLUB


ガヤ
CHATTER
ガヤ
CHATTER
13R
Sound of Music
"WE DON'T FEEL LIKE IT'S ONLY BEEN SIX MONTHS, DO WE?"
13R
Yikes.
ABC
BOING
ぴょこ
Yeah!


HELLO AGAIN, TAKAMINE-SENPAI!
HELLO, MITSUMI-SAN.
LOOKS LIKE TRAFFIC'S SLOWED DOWN.
AND WITHOUT ANY INCIDENTS, TOO. LUCKY FOR US.
STAMP RALLY Prize Exchange
E-EXCUSE ME!
HELLO. CAN I HELP YOU?
H...
HI! UM...
I MET THE PRESIDENT THIS MORNING. HE GAVE ME A LOT OF GREAT ADVICE ABOUT THE EXAMS.
OH! RIGHT.
Kazakami-san.


HE WAS SO PATIENT, AND I FELT A LOT BETTER AFTER TALKING TO HIM.
PLEASE, UM...
PLEASE TELL HIM I SAID THANK YOU!
WHAT A THOUGHTFUL KIDDO.
......
I KNOW HOW SHE FEELS, THOUGH!
WHEN YOU'RE FEELING OVER-WHELMED, A LITTLE KINDNESS, WELL...
IT REALLY PICKS YOU BACK UP!


……
DOES IT?
HEY, TEAM. HOLDING DOWN THE FORT?
WOW. IT'S REALLY CLEARED OUT.
I WON'T TELL ON YOU IF YOU WANNA GO GOOF OFF SOME-WHERE.
……!!
Mmrgh!
A-ACTUALLY, KAZAKAMI-SAN, THE KID YOU SPOKE WITH THIS MORNING WANTED YOU TO KNOW...


TOMORROW?!
YEAH. I'VE GOT THE AFTERNOON OFF.
I'M USUALLY THE ONE WHO ASKS *YOU* TO HANG.
SO, WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO? AQUARIUM?
PASS.
OH, BUT THIS SATURDAY, SOUSUKE HAS...
HAS WHAT?
HE *MIIIGHT* HAVE SAID HE HAS PLANS?
19:42
Touch to return to call 04:25
Tsubame West
School Festival
Program
Time table
PLANS, *HUH...?*
OH, I'LL *BET.*

Scene ⑳ END



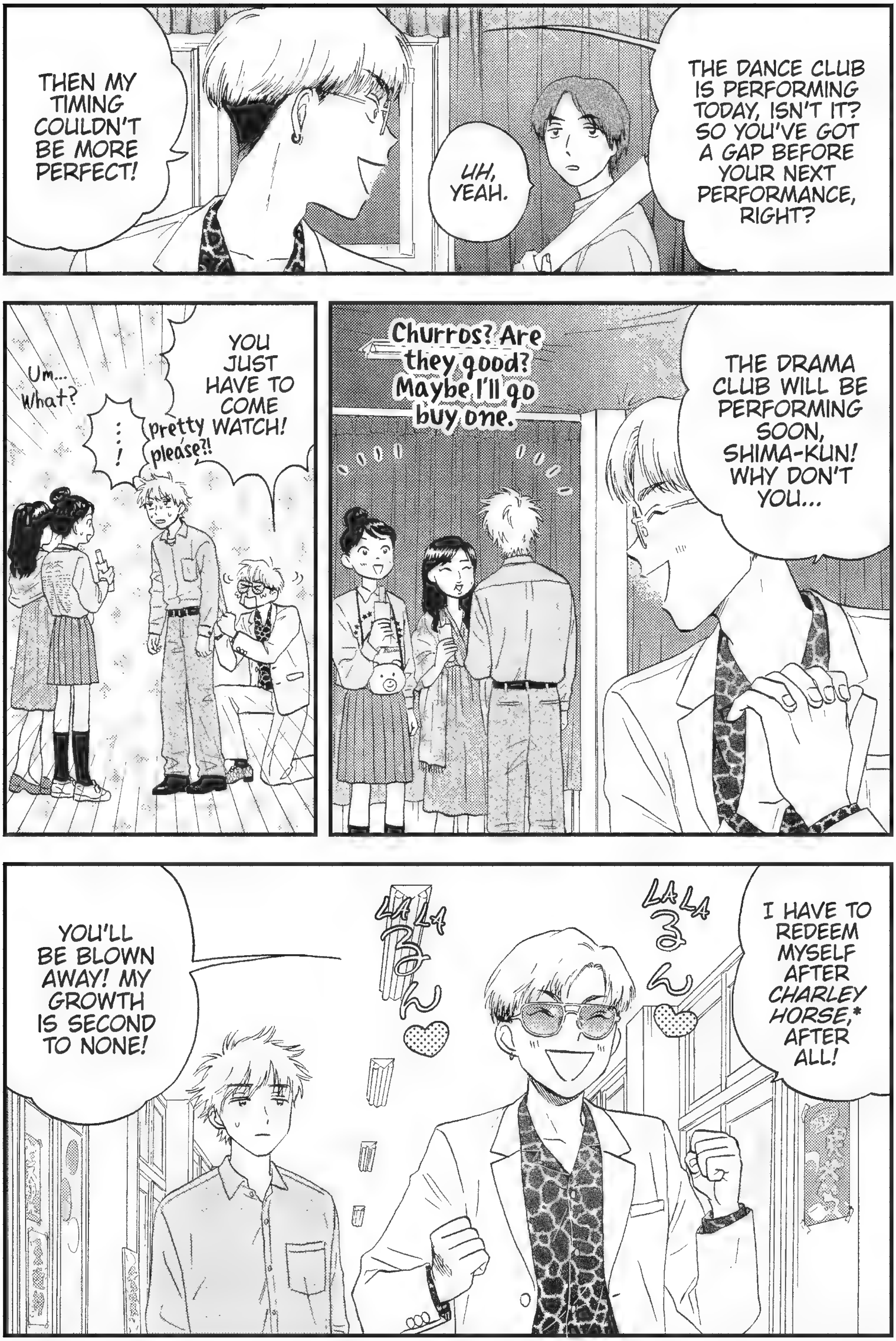
Scene ㉑ *Woo-hoo!* An Animated Festival 〈2〉


BUT OUR JOB'S NOT OVER YET! KEEP YOUR HEADS ON STRAIGHT AND LET'S MAKE SURE EVERYONE HAS A GOOD TIME!
OKAAAY!
Ahem!
THIS IS THE FESTIVAL'S SECOND...
AND FINAL DAY.
I'LL TAKE ONE.
HERE YOU GO.
WHOOOA.
I HEAR TAKIZAWA-SENPAI AND HAYAMI-SENPAI ARE GOING OUT!


I'M SOOO JEALOUS! I WANT SOME OF THAT FESTIVAL MAGIC!
PEACE AND QUIET CAN BE NICE TOO, THOUGH.
Guides


1-3
CHATTER
WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE SHOW!
PLEASE WATCH YOUR STEP ON THE WAY OUT!
CHATTER


WE'RE KILLING IT IN THE FIRST-YEAR POPULARITY POLL.
FOR REAL?
がしっ
GRAB
SHIMA-KUUUN... I SAW YOUR PERFORMANCE!
AND MAY I SAY, AN EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE IT WAS! EVEN YOU THOUGHT SO, HMM?
UH... I GUESS?
OF COURSE YOU DID! ISN'T ACTING FUN?!



*See Volume 3 for the gory details.

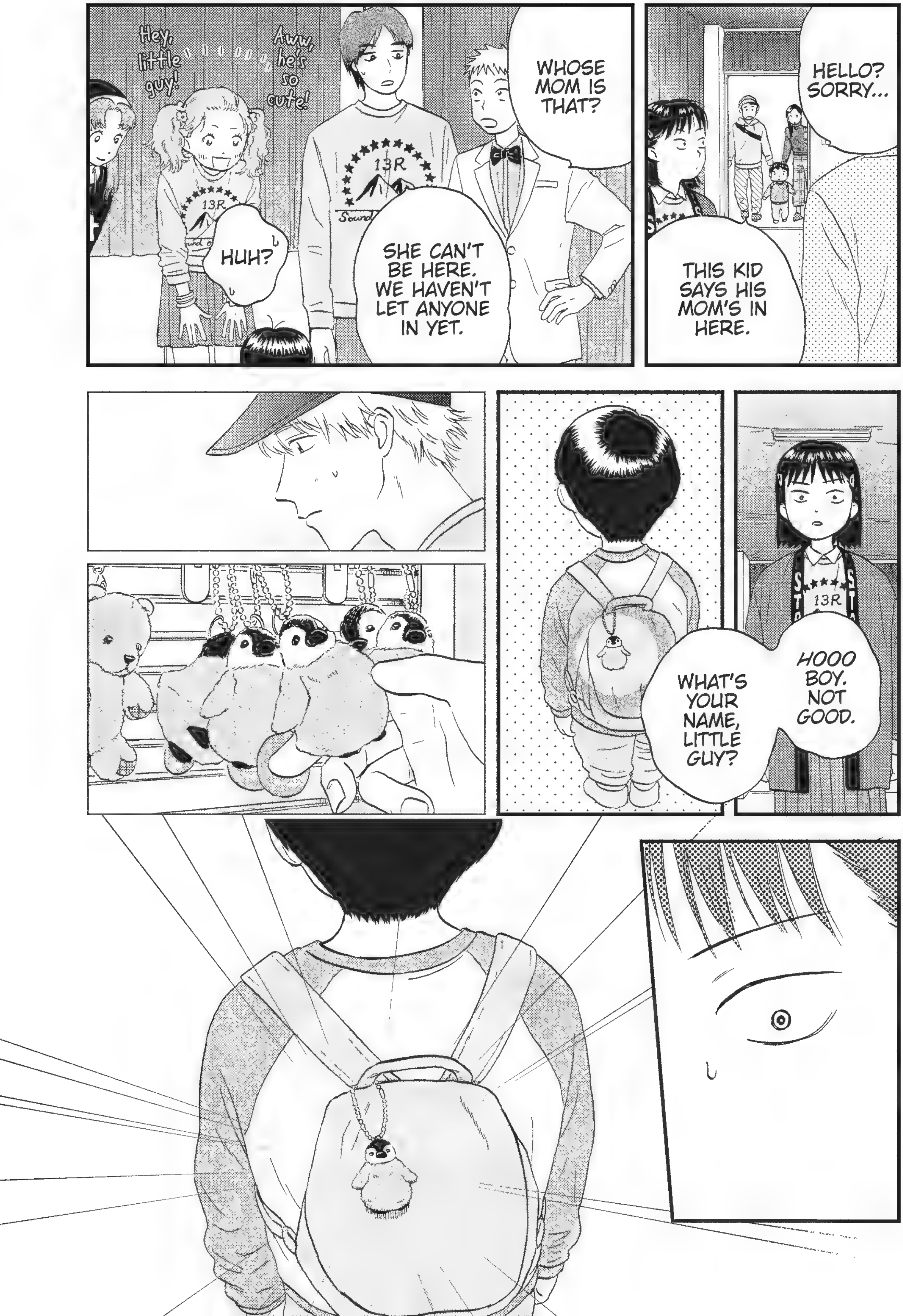

WHAT'S YOUR ENDGAME? I MEAN...
YOU SAID YOU WANTED PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE YOUR TALENT. WHAT THEN?
SENPAI...
HMM...
I'D *LIKE* TO GO AS HIGH AS I CAN, BUT...THAT'S MORE OF A BONUS OR A SIDENOTE.
SO, YOU DON'T KNOW?
BUT WAIT. WHAT *IS* MY ENDGAME?
OHHH! I HAVE BIG DREAMS! IN THE ACTING WORLD, I WANT TO BE...


EITHER WAY, I IMAGINE I'LL ALWAYS BE *CONSUMED* BY SCREEN-WRITING.
AND WHAT COULD BE MORE FABULOUS THAN THAT?
MAYBE MY ENDGAME IS TO FEED MYSELF AND PUT A ROOF OVER MY HEAD.
BUT THAT'S TOO FAR IN THE FUTURE.
♫ Doe, a deer...
a female deer
......

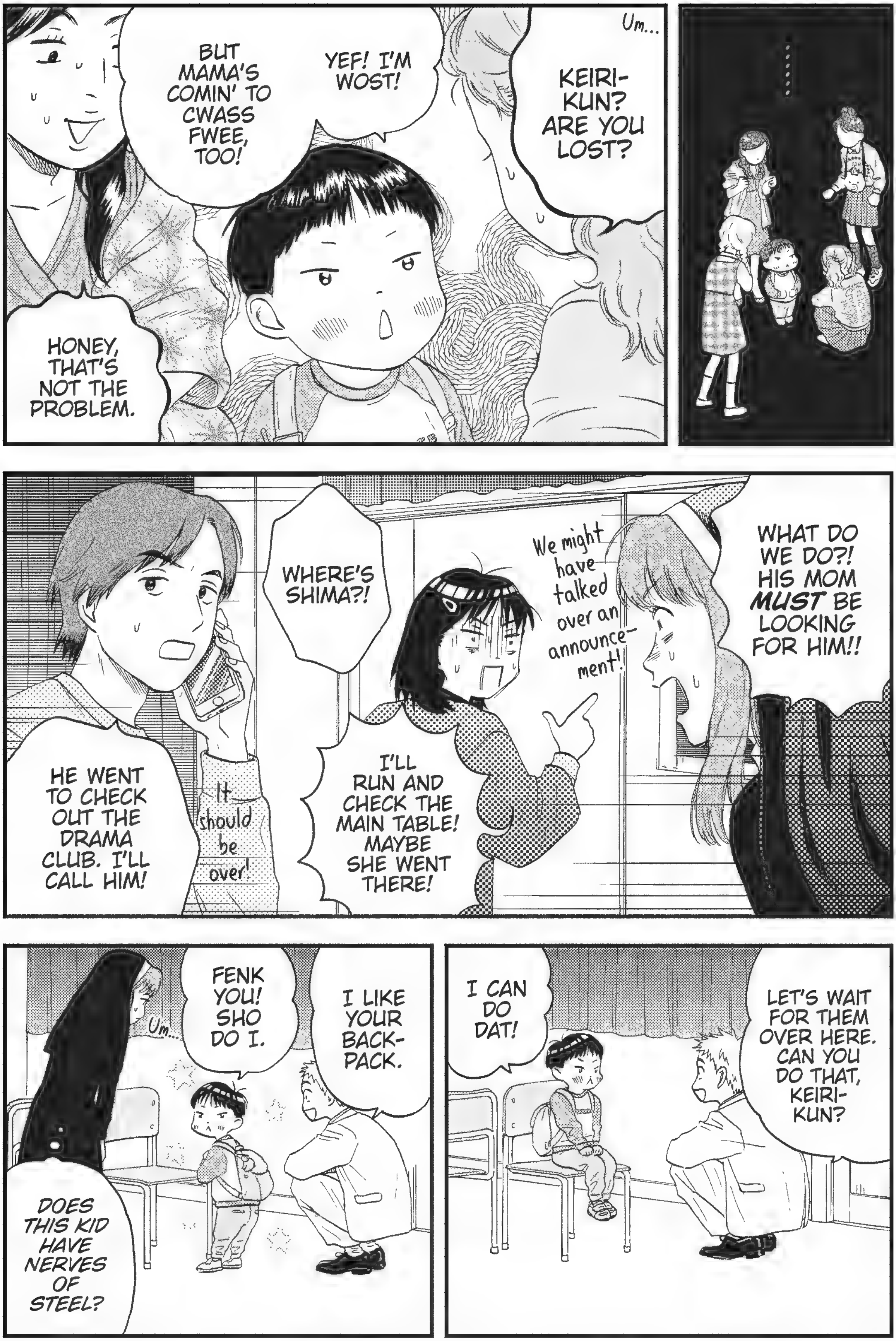

KEI-CHAN, DO YOU WANT EGGY BREAD?
YES, PWEASE!
AND NEXT UP, OUR FIRST-YEAR DANCERS!
WOO!


HERE, KEI-CHAN. LET'S SIT AND EAT OVER--
OH NO!
KEI-CHAN?!
KEIRI!!
MAMA?
MAMA!!
......


A'SCUSE ME!
WHERE'S CLASS ONE-FWEE?
POTATOES
NOW ON SALE
HEY, KIDDO. WHERE'S YOUR MOM AND DAD?
DAT'S WHERE MAMA IS!
UH, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
YEF!
CLASS 3 IS OVER THAT WAY.
HOW'S IT GOING OVER HERE?
YO, IWAKURA-SAN!
HEY. WORKING HARD?


Hey, little guy!
Aww, he's so cute!
WHOSE MOM IS THAT?
HUH?
SHE CAN'T BE HERE. WE HAVEN'T LET ANYONE IN YET.
HELLO? SORRY...
THIS KID SAYS HIS MOM'S IN HERE.
HOOO BOY. NOT GOOD.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, LITTLE GUY?


Cool!
ARE...
ARE YOU SHIMA-KUN'S LITTLE BROTHER...?
I know that key-chain!
SQUEEE!!!
!!!
HE'S SOOO CUTE!
YOU REALLY CAN'T SEE IT IN HIS FACE, HUH?
I DIDN'T KNOW SHIMA-KUN HAD SUCH A TINY WIDDLE BROTHER!
SO, WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'S YOUR M--
YEF!
I'M KEIWI! I'M FWEE!


Um...
KEIRI-KUN? ARE YOU LOST?
YEF! I'M WOST!
BUT MAMA'S COMIN' TO CWASS FWEE, TOO!
HONEY, THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM.
WHAT DO WE DO?! HIS MOM MUST BE LOOKING FOR HIM!!
We might have talked over an announce-ment!
WHERE'S SHIMA?!
I'LL RUN AND CHECK THE MAIN TABLE! MAYBE SHE WENT THERE!
HE WENT TO CHECK OUT THE DRAMA CLUB. I'LL CALL HIM!
It should be over!
LET'S WAIT FOR THEM OVER HERE. CAN YOU DO THAT, KEIRI-KUN?
I CAN DO DAT!
I LIKE YOUR BACK-PACK.
FENK YOU! SHO DO I.
Um...
DOES THIS KID HAVE NERVES OF STEEL?


Drama Club
Festival Production
K's Sunday
5F AV Room
Puzzle
3F
Society


CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
Thank you
for com-ing!


KANE-CHIKA!
THAT WAS AMAZING, MAN!
H-HEY.
Thank you so much.
GONNA BE HONEST, MOST OF YOUR STUFF FLIES *WAY* OVER MY HEAD, BUT THIS?
IT...IT WAS?
DUDE, I'M SERIOUS.
IT WAS *CRAZY* HOW YOU FORE-SHADOWED THE ENTIRE SECOND HALF!
ANYWAY, I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW!


YOU THOUGHT IT WAS GOOD?
I-I MEAN, OF COURSE IT WAS!
I THOUGHT SO MYSELF, SO I'M GLAD YOU AGREE!!
THANKS FOR COMING TO SEE IT!
FOR SURE.
Oh!
SHIMA-KU--
SOU-SUKE!


WHAT'S UP?
MUKAI?
YOUR KID BROTHER!
HE GOT LOST AND WANDERED OVER TO OUR CLASSROOM!
Huh?!
RUSH
RUSH
HE WHAT?! HOW IS HE EVEN HERE?!
DID MOM BRING HIM?!
THAT'D BE MY GUESS.
SHIMA-K--
WHAAAAT?!
RUSH
RUSH
GLOOOOOOM
HE CAME ALL THE WAY TO OUR CLASS ALONE?!
YEAH, SCARED THE HECK OUT OF ME. HE'S ONLY THREE, RIGHT?
THE KID'S A TROOPER, THOUGH. HASN'T CRIED ONCE.
THAT'S WEIRD. HE'S USUALLY SO TIMID.
TIMID? THAT CHATTER-BOX?


LOOK, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH LITTLE KIDS, OKAY?
BESIDES, I'M HIS STEPBROTHER. IF I BABIED HIM, IT'D MAKE THINGS AWKWARD.
I USED CRAM-SCHOOL AS AN EXCUSE TO GET AWAY FROM HOME IN JUNIOR HIGH.
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S EVER SHOWN INTEREST IN ME, EITHER.
AH... WAIT, I GET IT.
WHAT?
KIDS CAN SENSE WHEN YOU DON'T WANT THEM AROUND.
I'M...NOT AN EXPERT ON YOUR FAMILY DYNAMIC OR ANYTHING...
BUT YOU SERIOUSLY THINK A THREE-YEAR-OLD KID WOULDN'T ADORE HIS BIG BROTHER?
YOU'RE SELF-DEPRECATING IN THE WEIRDEST WAYS, SOUSUKE.
Like, to an aston-ishing degree.
AH CRUD! I HAVE TO CALL MOM.
SHE'S PROBABLY FREAKING OUT.


MOM...
Contacts
WHY DID SHE COME TODAY?
NO, I CAN GUESS. TO SEE THE CLASS PLAY.
NOT THAT I KNOW WHY...
PRRR...
WHAT? HE'S WHERE?!
IN THE CLASS-ROOM?!


ALL RIGHT. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
THANK YOU, SOUSUKE.
HE FOUND HIS WAY TO HIS BROTHER'S CLASSROOM. THANK YOU SO MUCH.
OH, GOOD! YOU MUST BE SO RELIEVED.
I'LL GO RIGHT THERE AND PICK HIM UP.
バタ SCURRY
バタ... SCURRY...
バタ SCURRY
OH!
バタ SCURRY
ARE YOU SHIMA-KU-- SOUSUKE-KUN'S MOTHER?!
Y-YES, I AM.

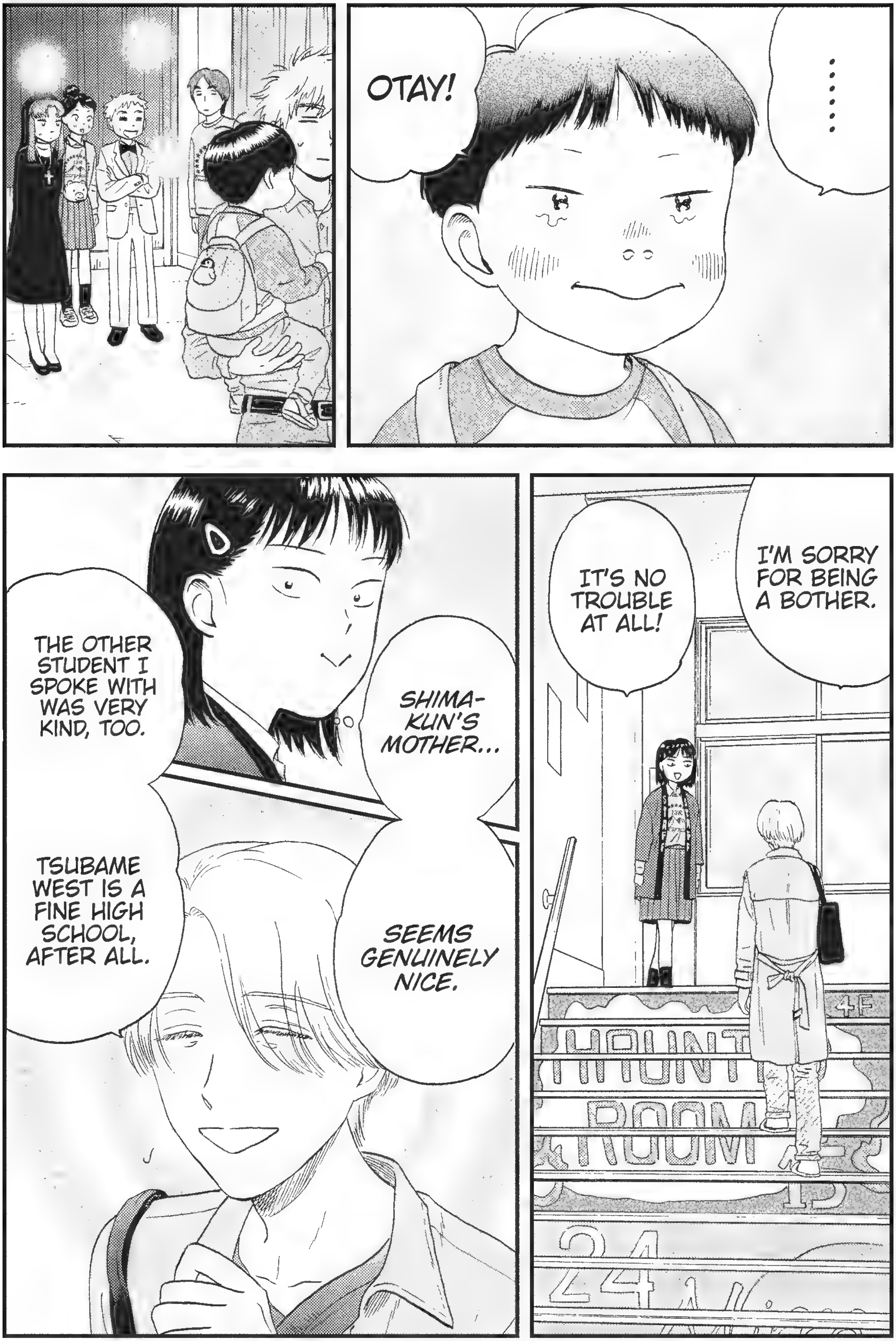

HUFF!
はあっ
THANK GOODNESS! I'M SHIM-- SOUSUKE-KUN'S CLASSMATE, IWAKURA!
はあっ
PUFF!
RIGHT... SOUSUKE JUST TOLD ME OVER THE PHONE.
H-HE'S IN OUR CLASS-ROOM!
KEIRI-KUN...
OH, THANK G--
KOFF! KOFF!
WHEEZE!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
IT'S OKAY! BREATHE. WE'LL GO TOGETHER. SLOWLY.
OH.
THERE HE IS.


KYA HA HA!
HE'S... LAUGHING.
Hey!
LOOK, KEIRI-KUN. YOUR BROTHER'S HERE!
LUCKY YOU!

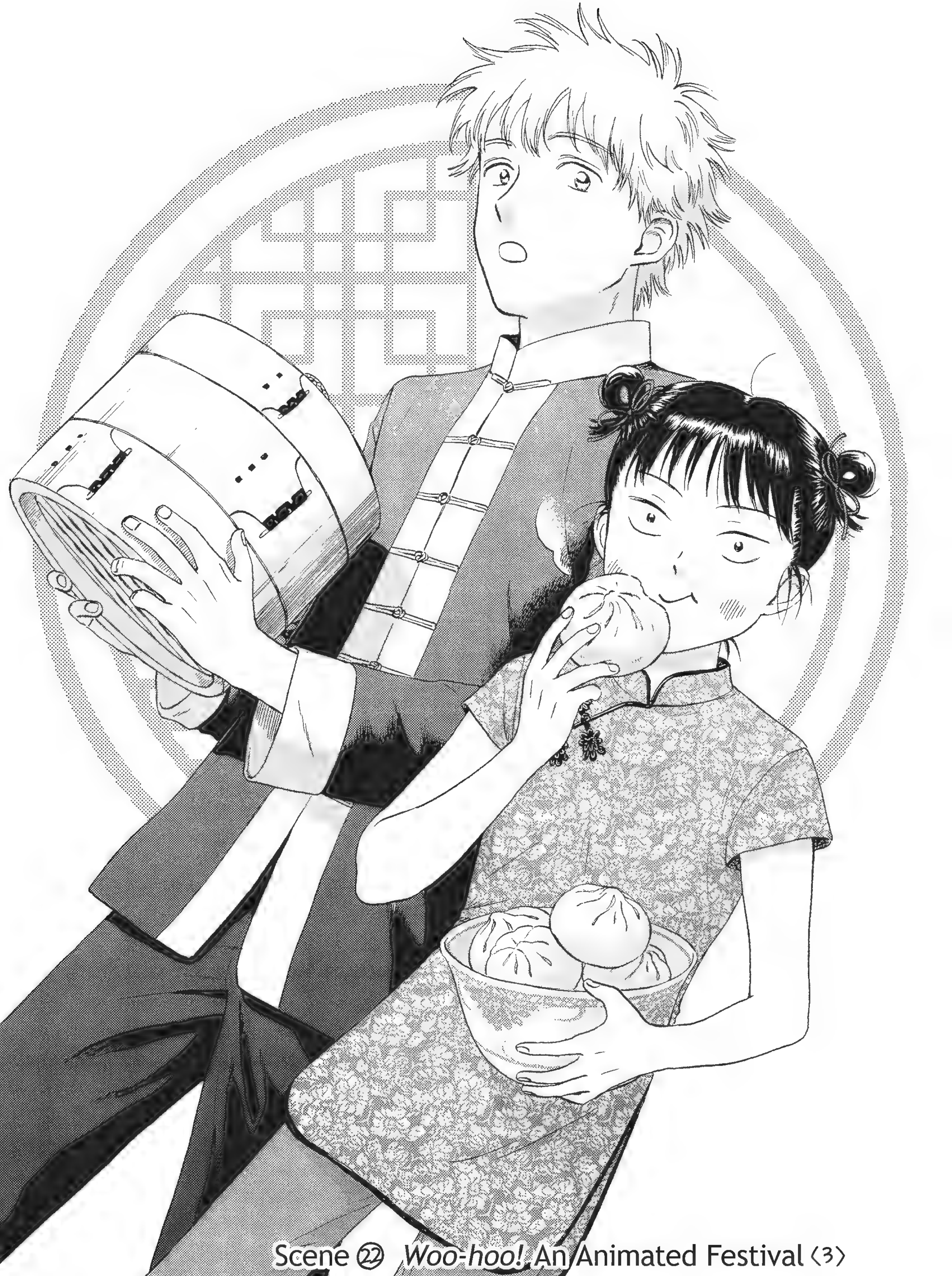

WHOA!
BWAAAH!
AH HA HA!
Waaah!
AWW, HE'S SO HAPPY TO SEE HIS BIG BROTHER!
HEEEY...
WAAAHHH!
TOTTER...


I CAN KIIINDA TELL HE'S YOUR BROTHER, SHIMA.
HUH?!
HOW?!
YOU'RE BOTH REALLY CONSIDER-ATE!
FOR BETTER OR WORSE!
WAS HE...
BEING CONSID-ERATE OF ME?
I'm home.
ZOOM
Runs away when they cross paths.
Gazes at him from afar.
WOBBLE...
COME TO THINK OF IT...
GROWING UP...
I WAS LIKE THAT, TOO.

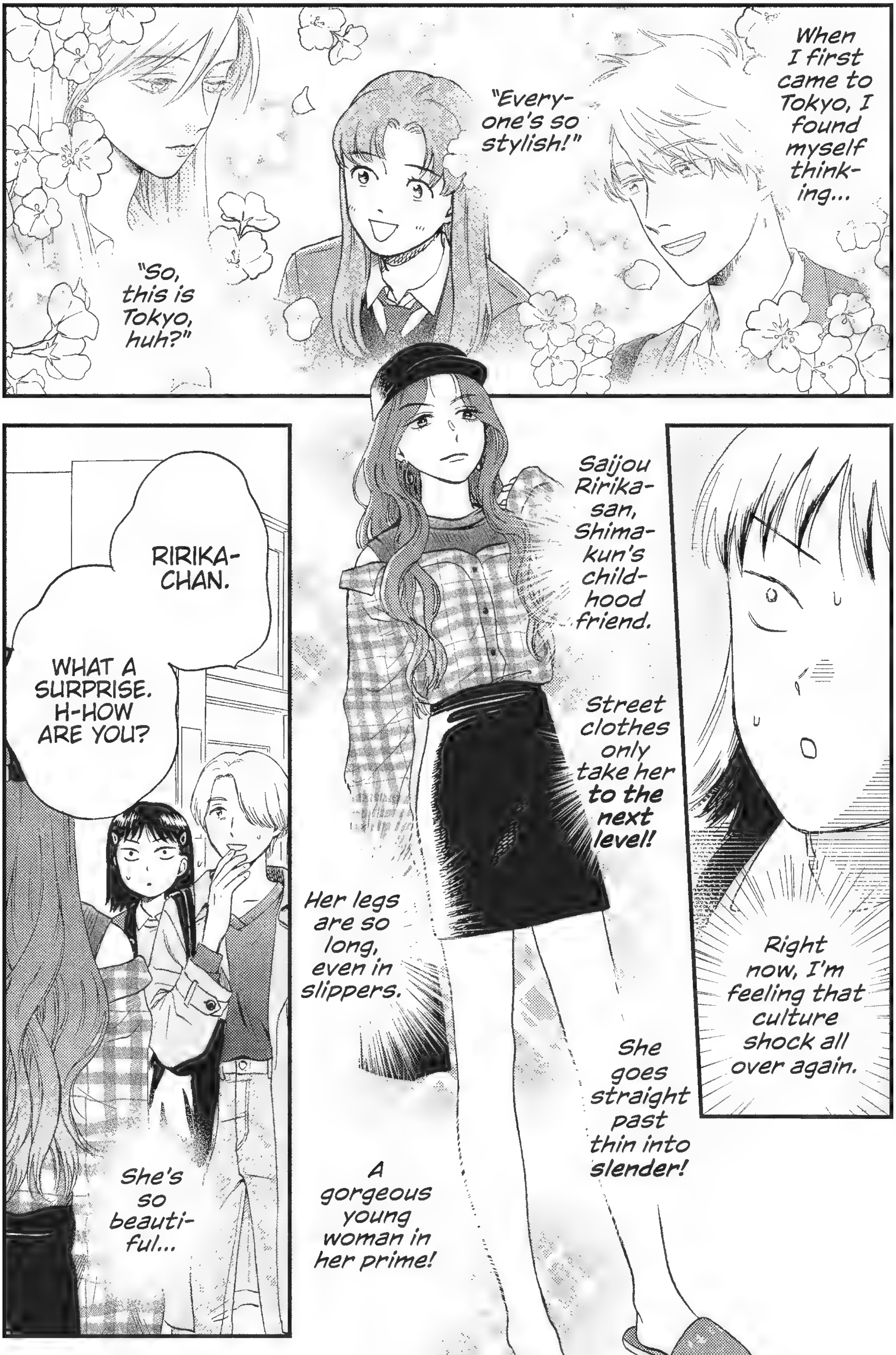

HYUP
!
Oof.
LET'S WAIT FOR MOM...
IN THE HALLWAY, OKAY?


......
OTAY!
I'M SORRY FOR BEING A BOTHER.
IT'S NO TROUBLE AT ALL!
SHIMA-KUN'S MOTHER...
SEEMS GENUINELY NICE.
THE OTHER STUDENT I SPOKE WITH WAS VERY KIND, TOO.
TSUBAME WEST IS A FINE HIGH SCHOOL, AFTER ALL.


STRAIGHT AHE
OUR CLASSROOM IS JUST DOWN THIS HALL.
STAFF
13R
STAFF
Scene 21 END



Scene ㉒ *Woo-hoo!* An Animated Festival 〈3〉


When I first came to Tokyo, I found myself thinking...
"Every-one's so stylish!"
"So, this is Tokyo, huh?"
Right now, I'm feeling that culture shock all over again.
Saijou Ririka-san, Shima-kun's child-hood friend.
Street clothes only take her to the next level!
She goes straight past thin into slender!
Her legs are so long, even in slippers.
A gorgeous young woman in her prime!
RIRIKA-CHAN.
WHAT A SURPRISE. H-HOW ARE YOU?
She's so beauti-ful...


GROWR
WHAT?!
BA-THUMP
that when she's angry, her looks are just amplified.
Even if I'm not her target.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?
CORN DOGS
DANCE
LAN-GUAGE, RIRIKA!
HELLO, SOUSUKE'S MOM! HOW NICE TO SEE YOU!
CHRIS-KUN?!
YOU'VE BOTH GOTTEN SO BIG.
I...ASSUME YOU'VE STAYED IN TOUCH WITH SOUSUKE.



YOU DON'T EVEN *PRETEND* YOU WANT ME HANGING OUT WITH HIM.
RIRIKA!
THAT WASN'T WHAT I WAS TRYING TO--
YOU'RE *SUCH* A NARCISSIST.
SERIOUSLY, CHILL.
OH, THIS IS RICH.
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.
I JUST CAME TO SEE MY SON'S PLAY, THAT'S A--
I DON'T CARE.
SCREECH
ガッ
RIRI--
SHUT *UP*, CHRIS!


ARE YOU MAKING SOUSUKE ACT FOR YOU AGAIN?


How Animals Intimidat
SMALL ANIMALS OFTEN DO THIS TO MAKE THEMSELVES LOOK BIGGER.
The lesser anteater stretches tall when threatened, using it tail for balance.
DIS CUTE.
YEAH.
IT'S SO WELL PUT TOGETHER. THE BIOLOGY CLUB *MADE* THIS?
YOU COULD ALWAYS COME CHECK US OUT. WE HAVE A KID'S EXHIBIT.
THANKS.
HUH? YOUR MOM'S STILL M.I.A.?
MAYBE SHE'S LOST.
SHIMA-KUN! MUKAI-KUN!

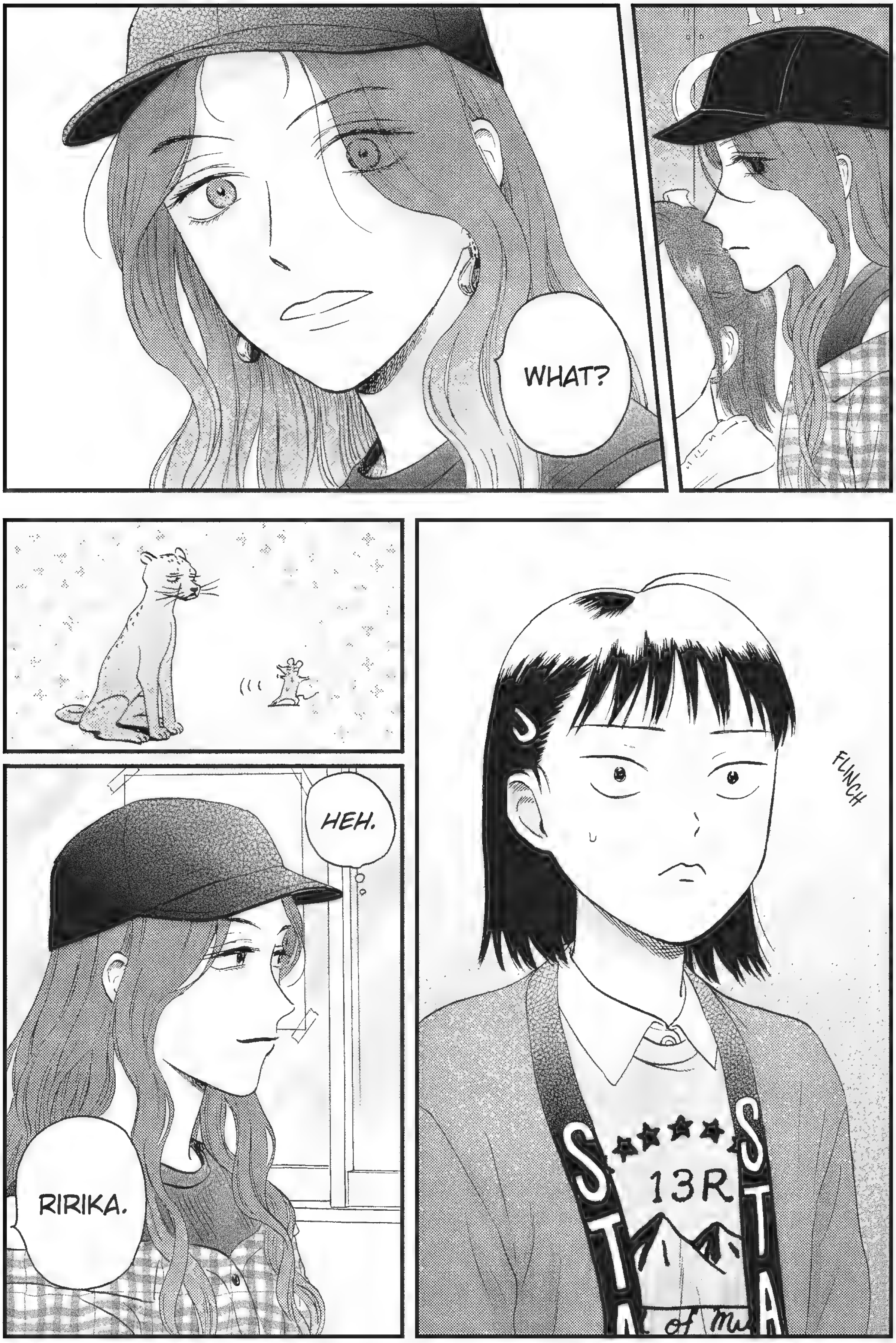

LONG TIME NO SEEE!
WHOA! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU GUYS WERE COMING!
FRIENDS OF YOURS?
Nice to meet'cha!
YEAH. CLASSMATES FROM JUNIOR HIGH.
WE HEARD YOUR CLASS WAS PUTTING ON A PLAY.
WE COULDN'T PASS UP A CHANCE TO SEE SHIMA-KUN'S ACTING.
RIGHT!
Oh.
RIGHT.
THEY ALL KNOW I ACTED WHEN I WAS A KID.
IS THIS YOUR LITTLE BROTHER?
YEAH.
HEWWO!
Aww! He's so cute!
BETTER CHANGE THE SUBJECT.
SOUSUKE!


GUESS WHO?
WHAT?! NO WAY!!
IS THAT SAIJOU RIRIKA-CHAN, THE MODEL?!
SQUEEEE!
きゃあ
Ahh crap.
I READ HIGHTEEN EVERY SINGLE MONTH!
AWW, THANKS.
OMIGOD! HER FACE!
I KNEW YOU WERE STILL FRIENDS WITH SHIMA-KUN.
OHHH, THEY COSTARRED ON A TV SHOW, RIGHT?
COSTAR-RED?
HUH?
WAIT, SHE'S A MODEL?
YOU WERE IN A TV SHOW, SHIMA-KUN?
ACK!
YOU WEREN'T TRYING TO KEEP THAT A SECRET, WERE YOU?


JUST TELL THEM. IT'S NOTHING TO HIDE, RIGHT?
......
I, UH... ACTED IN A COUPLE THINGS WHEN I WAS A KID.
HUH?!
ARE YOU KIDDING?! THAT'S SO COOL!
WHAT WAS IT CALLED? CAN I LOOK IT UP?
CHATTER
OH JEEZ. NOW I'M EMBARRASSED.
Hellooo?
HEEEY, IT'S ALMOST SHOW-TIME.
CHATTER
SOUSUKE.
That is, like, seriously so cool!
GAB
GAB


I'D LOVE TO STAY, BUT I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF.
WE'RE GOING HOME.
HUH?!
OH... OKAY.
THANK YOU FOR WATCHING KEIRI.
UH... SURE.
WE'RE WEAVING?
THAT'S RIGHT.
GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR...
YOUR ANNOUNCE-MENT.


OH.
THIS PERSON...
She did that on purpose.
She forced Shima-kun to spill his secret...
Why?
and made his mother leave.
Was it to poke at him?



WHAT?
HEH.
RIRIKA.
FLINCH
13R


DID YOU SAY SOMETHING TO MY MOM?
HM?
NO, NOT REALLY.
WHY? DID YOU WANT HER TO STAY?
WELL...
IF ANYTHING, YOU SHOULD BE *GLAD* SHE'S--
STAFF
13R
Sound of Music
STAFF


Y-YOU MIGHT WANT TO SAVE A SPOT IN LINE, RIRIKA-SAN!
YOU'LL GET TIRED IF YOU HAVE TO STAND!
OH. GOOD POINT.
......?
UM!
? ? ?
HUH ...?
AHA!
AN ANTEATER!
TSUBAME NEST
STAFF


AH HA HA!
WHAT?
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
STAFF
13R
STAFF
WHAAAT? NOW I REALLY WANT TO KNOW!
THE BIOLOGY CLUB MADE THIS BOOK, AND YOU...
NEVER MIND. I'LL SEND YOU A PIC LATER.
LET'S GO, CHRIS.
Huh?
BUT I WANTED TO TALK TO SOU--
WHATEVER. I'M GOING IN.


RIRIKA...
ACCUSED YOUR MOM OF MAKING YOU ACT FOR HER AGAIN.
SOU-SUKE!
ADMISSIONS
13R
SORRY I DIDN'T WARN YOU.
IT'S FINE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
HONESTLY, THOUGH, I KNEW WHAT SHE WAS GETTING AT.
YEAH...
MAYBE THIS IS OBVIOUS...
ANYWAY, BREAK A LEG!
WILL DO.
THANKS.

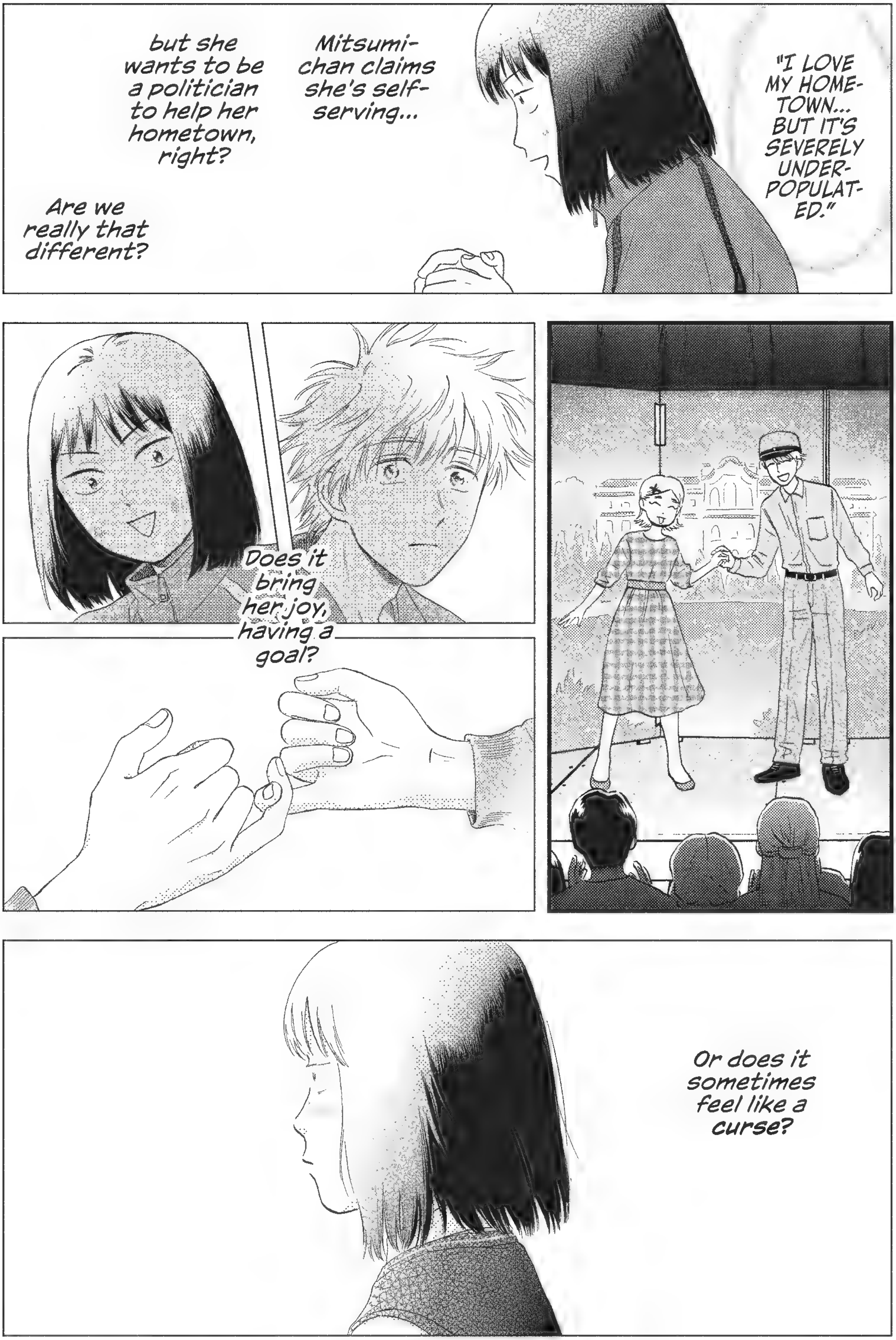

Kind of like how I am with Fumi.
You share so much in them, good and bad.
but there's a real depth to childhood friend-ships.
SHWIP
PFFT!
I know I can't jump over the time they've shared.
WHAT'S WITH THAT POSE?
Ah ha ha!



DUNNO!
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK.
GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR LAST SHOW!
BUT SOME-DAY...
I'D LIKE TO BE ON THAT LEVEL WITH HIM, TOO.


THIS IS THE LAST SHOW!
LET'S GIVE IT ALL WE'VE GOT!
Yeah!
CHATTER
CHATTER
"GOOD LUCK."
"LET'S GIVE IT ALL WE'VE GOT."
HUNH.


"It made my mom happy."
"Ririka accused your mom of making you act for her again."
DOES THAT MEAN I CAN ACT AS LONG AS IT'S FOR MYSELF?
I don't know.
Heck, if you asked me to name my favorite food, I couldn't come up with anything right away...
but I know exactly what people expect from me.
And how happy they get when I meet those expectations.
It's easier for me that way, too.


"I LOVE MY HOMETOWN... BUT IT'S SEVERELY UNDERPOPULATED."
Mitsumi-chan claims she's self-serving...
but she wants to be a politician to help her hometown, right?
Are we really that different?
Does it bring her joy, having a goal?
Or does it sometimes feel like a curse?


The question is, what do I want?
When I see people with passion...
is it anxiety that makes me wonder what they'll think of me?
No, that's not the real question.
Was I relieved when Mom left?
Or...did I want her to stay and watch?
When girls I don't know seem attract-ed to me...
is my lack of confidence what makes me uncom-fortable?
How can I not even know myself?
THIS IS IT! YOUR LAST SCENE!
GO FOR IT!


SORRY.
SEE YOU AFTER.
......
SHIMA?
はっ GASP!
THEY'RE GONE!
COME TO THINK OF IT...
KANECHIKA-SENPAI'S PLAY WAS GREAT.
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T TALK TO HIM AFTER THE SHOW.


YOU GIVE THAT TO ME, ROLF.
NO. WHO AM I KIDDING?
I COULDN'T HAVE, EVEN IF I TRIED.
YOU'LL NEVER BE ONE OF THEM.




I know this feeling. It's jealousy.


......?
......
だっ
DMP
パチ
CLAP
パチ
CLAP
パチ
CLAP
パチ
CLAP
I'M SO SORRY. I FORGOT MY LINES.
NO WORRIES!
WHAT YOU DID WORKED OUT.
ガヤ
CHATTER
ガヤ
CHATTER

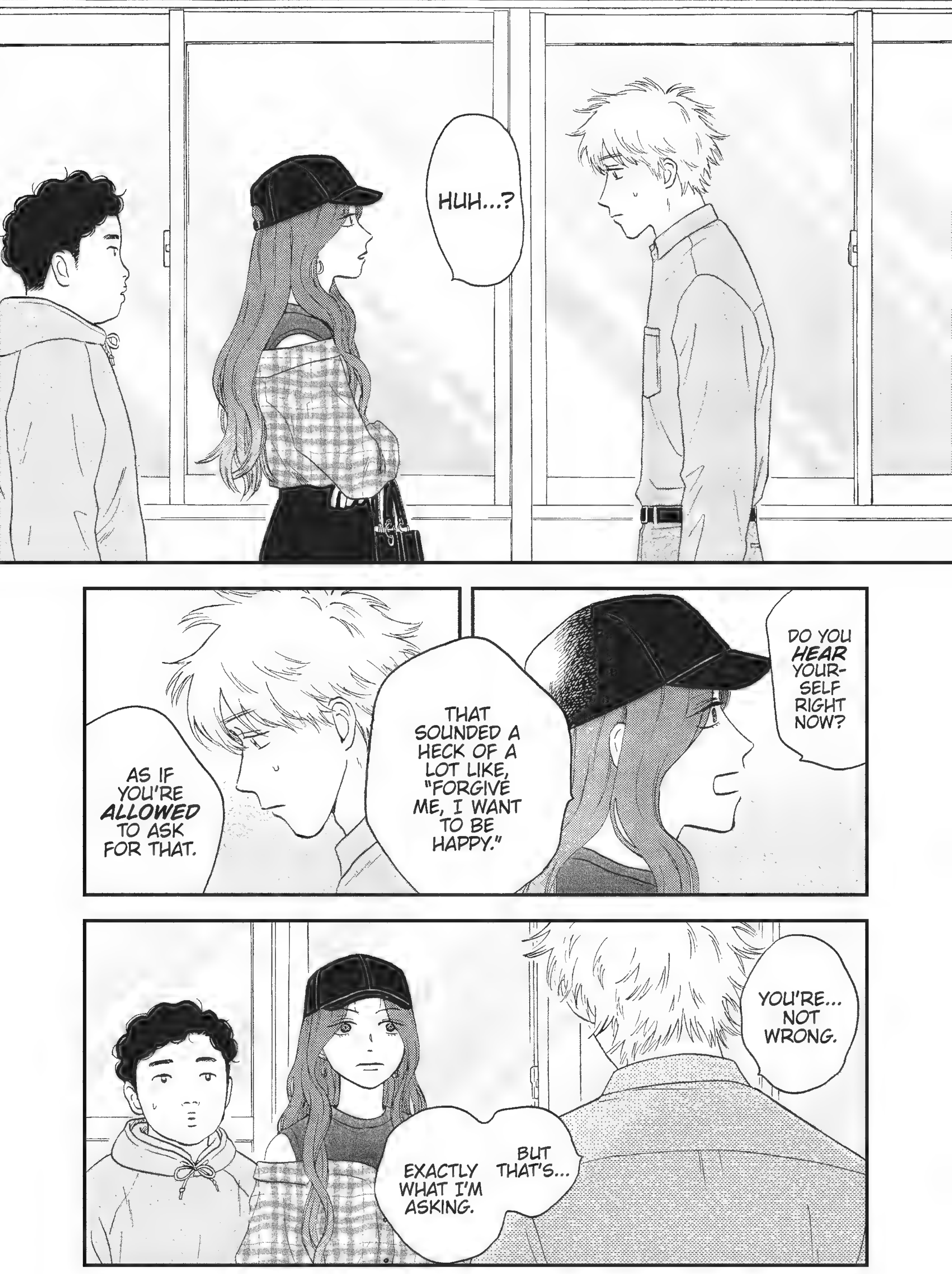

RIRIKA! CHRIS!
LISTEN, RIRIKA.
I'VE BEEN THINKING. FOR A WHILE NOW.
OH MAN, SOUSUKE!
HONESTLY, I WASN'T EXPECTING THAT QUALITY IN A SCHOOL FESTIVAL. YOU GUYS KILLED IT!
THANKS.
I OWE YOU...
A LIFETIME OF APOLOGIES, AND THEN SOME.
SERI-OUSLY.


BUT I DON'T WANT TO KEEP FOLLOWING YOU...
DOWN THE SAME DESTRUCTIVE PATH.
NOT ANYMORE.
IF YOU WANT TO START FORGING A NEW PATH...
THEN I'LL DO WHAT-EVER I CAN TO HELP.
I PROMISE.
I'LL LISTEN IF YOU'RE STRESSED OR WANT TO VENT.
EVEN IF YOU WAKE ME UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
I JUST...
I...

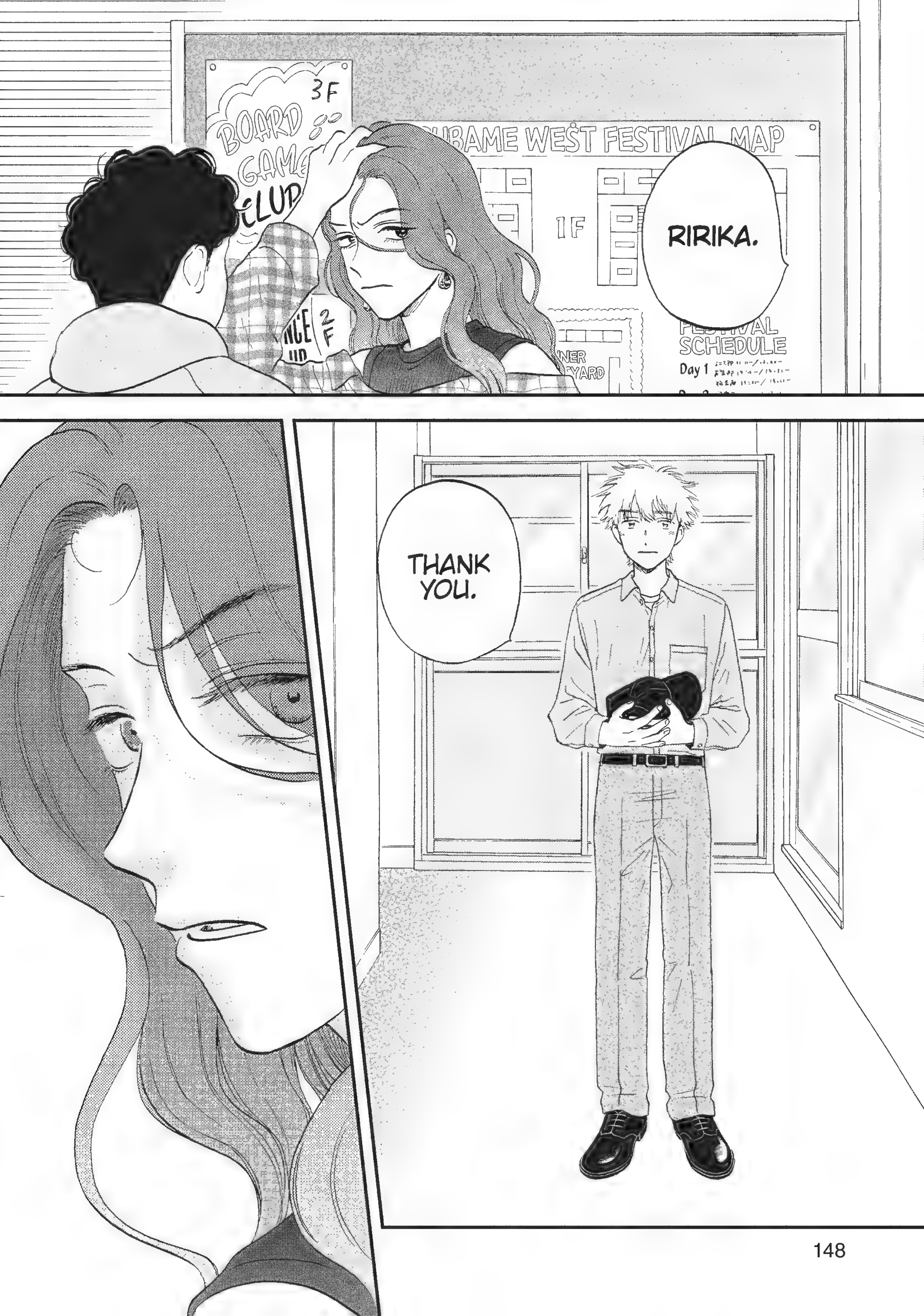



I... ENJOY THIS SCHOOL.
受付
Scene 22 END


13R
Sound of Music
Scene ㉓ Woo-hoo! An Animated Festival 〈4〉


HUH...?
DO YOU HEAR YOURSELF RIGHT NOW?
THAT SOUNDED A HECK OF A LOT LIKE, "FORGIVE ME, I WANT TO BE HAPPY."
AS IF YOU'RE ALLOWED TO ASK FOR THAT.
YOU'RE... NOT WRONG.
BUT THAT'S...
EXACTLY WHAT I'M ASKING.


SHWAP
YOU'RE BOTH NARCISSISTS! YOU AND YOUR MOM!
FINE! WHATEVER! DO WHAT YOU WANT!
BUT DON'T YOU EVER SHOW YOUR FACE TO ME AGAIN!
UN-FREAKING-BELIEVABLE!

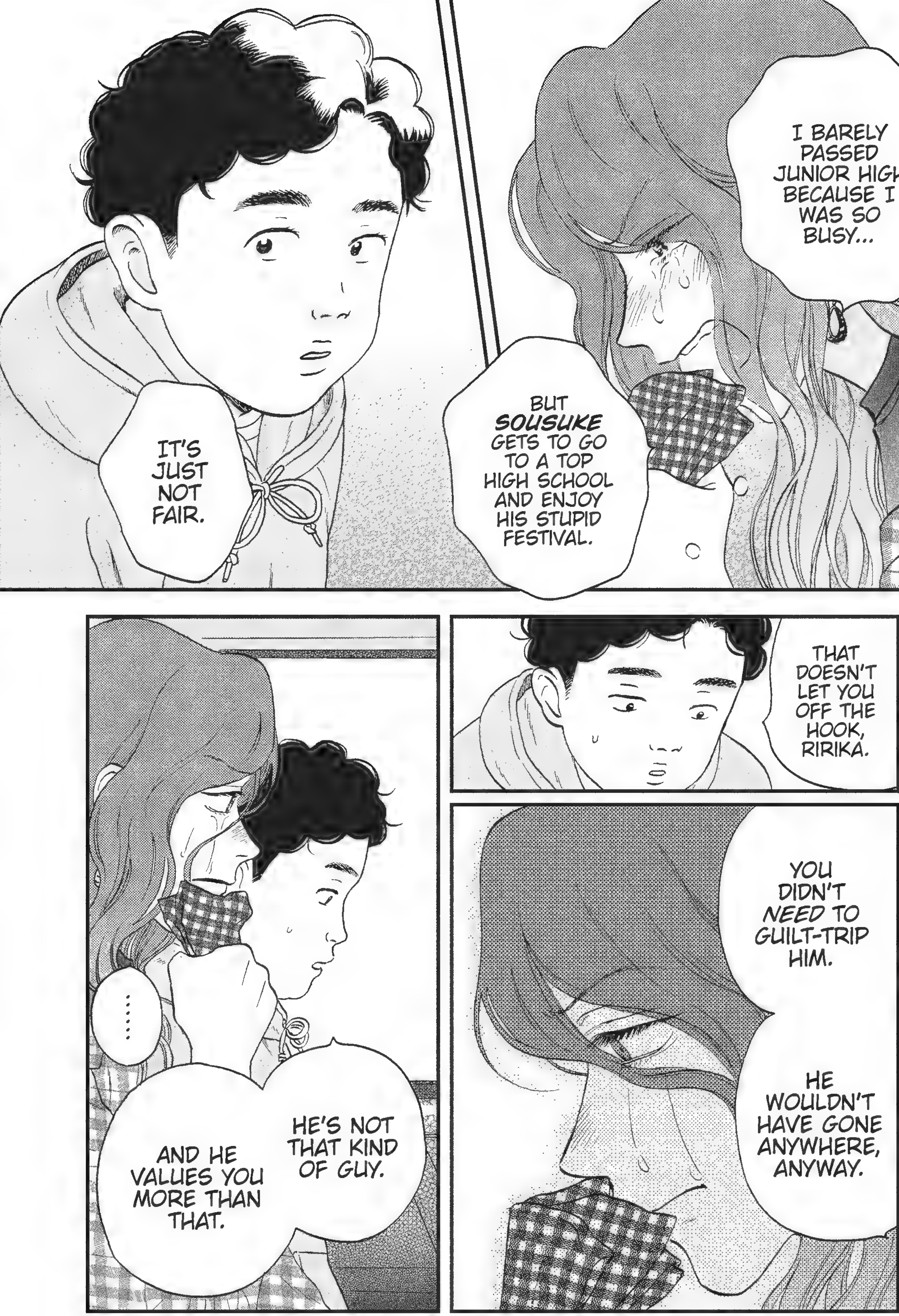

BOARD GAME CLUB
3F
UBAME WEST FESTIVAL MAP
1F
2F
FESTIVAL SCHEDULE
Day 1
RIRIKA.
THANK YOU.


FWP
COME ON, CHRIS! WE'RE LEAVING!
UH, RIRIKA-SAN? HELLO?
YOU'RE A PUBLIC FIGURE?


ブロロロ...
VROOM...
NGUH!
WAHH!
HEY, IT'S OKAY... HERE, DRINK SOME WATER.
BAWWWWW!
E...
EVEN I KN-KNEW IT WASN'T *TOTALLY* S-SOUSUKE'S FAULT, YOU KNOW.



IT'S NOT HIS STUPID FAULT I GOT FLAMED OR LOST MY JOB.
HE TOLD ME NOT TO COME, AND I FOLLOWED HIM ANYWAY. THAT'S ON ME.
BUT IT'S JUST NOT *FAIR.*
WHEN HE'S WITH ME, HE LOOKS LIKE HE'D RATHER BE ANYWHERE ELSE.
BUT HE WAS *LAUGHING* WITH HER! A GIRL WHO BARELY KNOWS HIM.
OF COURSE HE'S GONNA BE ONE OF *THEM.*

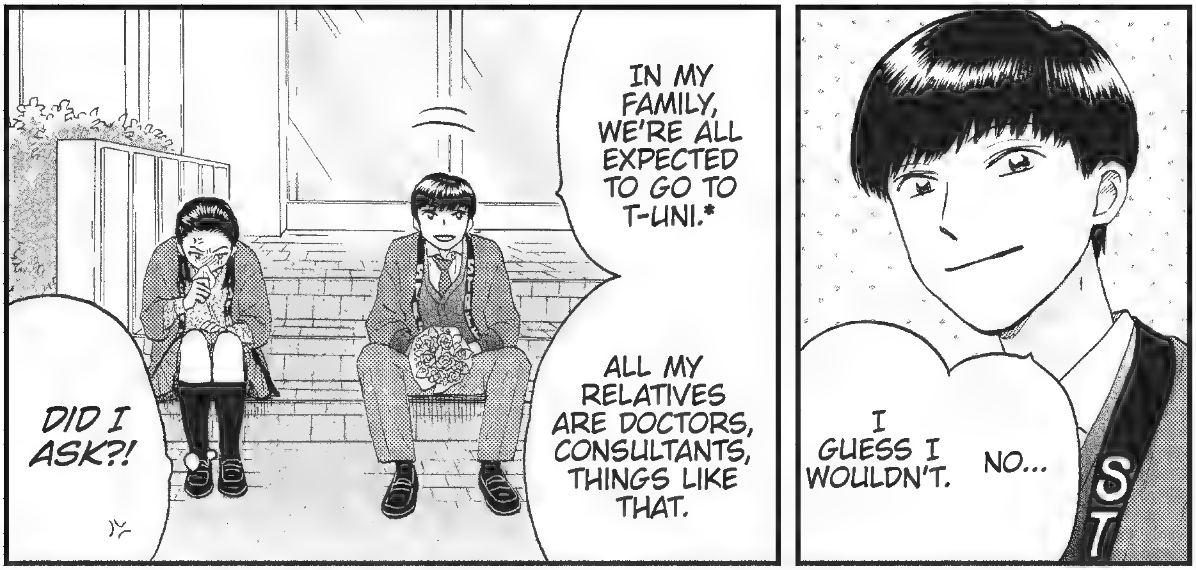

I BARELY PASSED JUNIOR HIGH BECAUSE I WAS SO BUSY...
BUT *SOUSUKE* GETS TO GO TO A TOP HIGH SCHOOL AND ENJOY HIS STUPID FESTIVAL.
IT'S JUST NOT FAIR.
THAT DOESN'T LET YOU OFF THE HOOK, RIRIKA.
YOU DIDN'T *NEED* TO GUILT-TRIP HIM.
HE WOULDN'T HAVE GONE ANYWHERE, ANYWAY.
......
HE'S NOT THAT KIND OF GUY.
AND HE VALUES YOU MORE THAN THAT.


SNIFF
......
Chris's hankie!
BESIDES...
YOU KNOW
HOOONK
YOU WEREN'T EVEN WORKING IN JUNIOR HIGH.
GOTTA SAY, IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT YOUR GRADES SUCKED.
SHUT UP, SHUT UP, SHUT UP!
VROOM...
1-1
Come on by!
COSPLAY Café
3-1


IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE HELP OF EVERYONE HERE!
Yeah! Good work, team!
THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!
パチ CLAP
パチ CLAP
パチ CLAP
I HOPE EVERYONE ENJOYED THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL!
NEXT, OUR PRESIDENT WOULD LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS.
パチ CLAP
Kaza-kami-kuuun!
パチ CLAP
EVERYONE, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK.


CLOSING OUT THIS EVENT WITH NO MAJOR TROUBLE...
WILL BE A BRIGHT PAGE IN THE STORY OF OUR YOUTHS.
THANK YOU ALL AGAIN!
パチ CLAP
パチ CLAP
パチ CLAP
パチ CLAP
パチ CLAP
......
For all of your hard work.


GAPE
SNUFF
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
I HAVE PLENTY OF REASONS!
RELIEF, THE JOY OF SUCCESS... MUST I GO ON?
I MEAN, I GET IT, BUT...AH HA HA HA!
YOU WANT A TISSUE?
I HAVE MY OWN, THANKS!
YOU WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND.
I'M NOT NATURALLY GIFTED LIKE YOU.



*Todai University. One of Japan's top universities.




I SWORE I'D ONLY BE IN CLUBS THROUGH MY SECOND YEAR.
THEN I GOT INJURED. NOT VERY GIFTED OF ME, WAS IT?
BUT I STILL WANTED TO DO...
SOME-THING WITH MY HIGH SCHOOL CAREER.
I'M SORRY, TAKAMINE.
THAT "SOMETHING" WAS THE POSITION YOU CRAVED.


......!
SURE WAS.
TURNS OUT I WAS WAY MORE POPULAR THAN YOU, HUH?
DON'T BE SORRY.
IT WAS A FAIR ELECTION.
HERE. I DON'T NEED 'EM.
Hey!
GOOD WORK!
......
STAFF
STAFF


CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
CLAP パチ
And the most popular club event award went to--wait for it!--the Drama Club!
The festival ended with an award ceremony.
The most popular class event was class 2-1.
I'M SORRY I WAS SUCH AN AWFUL ORGANIZER ...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU DID YOUR BEST!
I SAID A BUNCH OF PETTY THINGS, TOO.
YOU WERE GREAT, RYOUKO. THANK YOU.
I THOUGHT I'D BE EMBAR-RASSED, BUT THAT WAS A BLAST.
RIGHT? I WOULDN'T MIND DOING IT AGAIN.
CAN I CALL YOU SOUSUKE, TOO?
KIND OF RANDOM.
But okay.


As each of us nursed our varied feelings...


Tsubame West High School's festival...
came to a close.
CHORUS CLUB
LIVE
4F MUSIC ROOM
INVITATIONAL

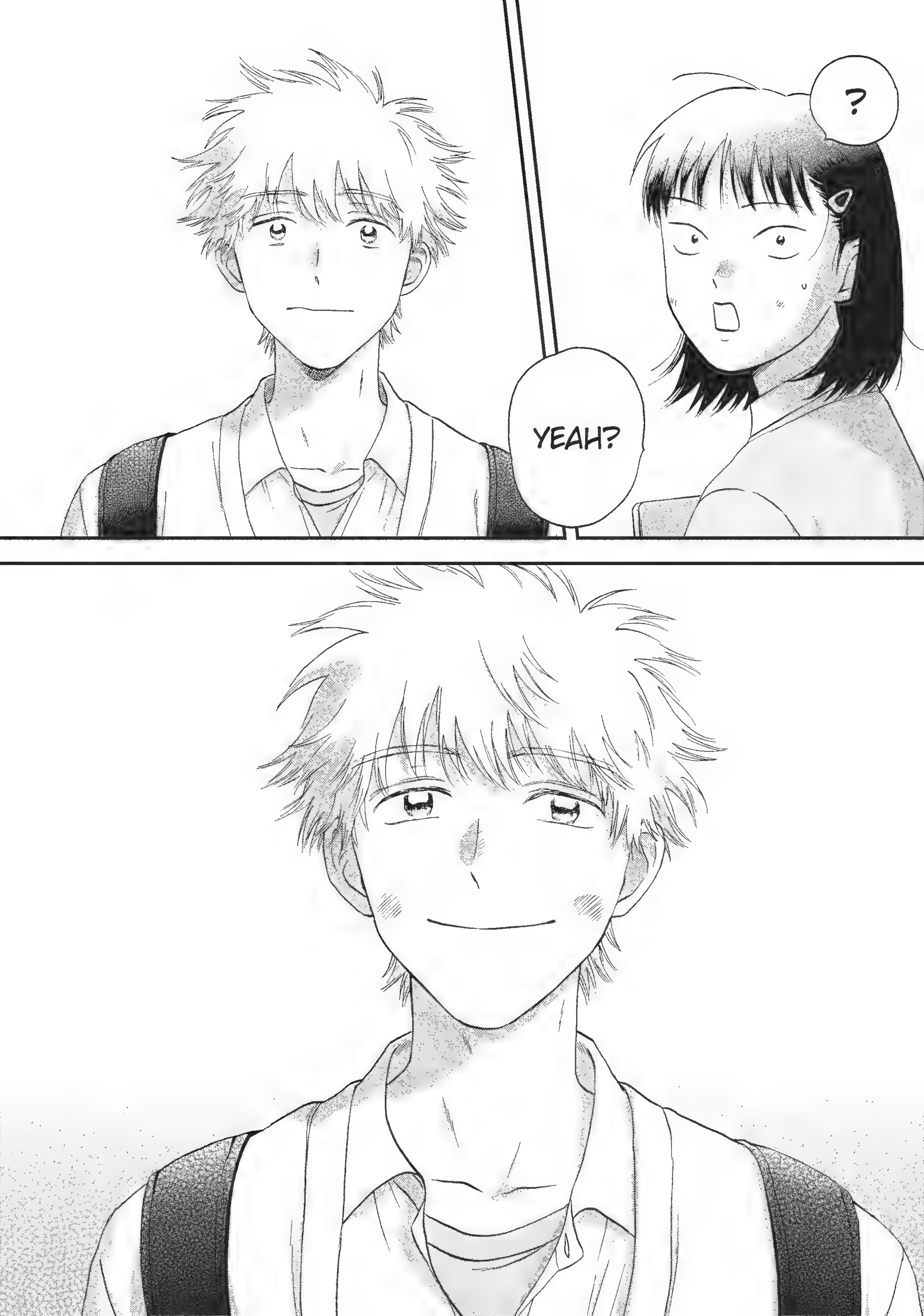


*A family chain restaurant.


MITSUMI-CHAN.
YES, SHIMA-KUN?
DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?
UM...
NAH.
I WAS JUST WONDERING IF I COULD HELP OUT.
NOOO, NO, NO, NO!
IT'LL BE A QUICK MEETING, REALLY!
GO EAT WITH THE OTHERS!
WELL, OKAY.
SEE YOU LATER, THEN!
YEP!
BYE-BYE.


……
WELL, HOW ABOUT THIS?
IF OUR CLASS FINISHES CLEANUP EARLY TOMORROW, I'LL HELP YOU OUT.
THAT'D BE GREAT!
JUST TEXT ME WHEN YOU'RE FREE.
I'LL TELL YOU WHERE WE NEED THE MOST HELP!
YOU GOT IT.


MITSUMI-
CHAN!


?
YEAH?


NOTHING.
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!


?
?
He's metro-politan, mature, and kind.
When I first met him, I thought, "I had no idea that chic guys like him existed."
But today he seems almost like...I don't know. A kid?
Shima-kun's a bigger mystery than I ever imagined.


BUT THAT ALMOST...
MAKES ME HAPPY.
OH.
HEY!
OOOH!
LOOKING GOOD.


There, high above the clouds...
vast, clear, and delight-ful...
is the autumn sky.
Scene 23 END


Bonus Story ☆ Mother Abbess, Mika-chan
GO, MARIA.
CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN, FORD EVERY STREAM...
I LIKE THIS SCENE WITH THE MOTHER ABBESS THE BEST.
The Sound of
Hey, Shima-kun! About this part...
Let me see...
AARGH ...
I hate myself for letting an offhanded remark crank up my motivation like this!!
If you love this man, it doesn't mean you love God any less...
Maria.





My assistants

Yamato-san Wakayama-san
Nito-san Yuuko-san

Material Assistants

Miyazaki Yuusuke-san Yamazaki Shun-san
Kimura Sanae-san

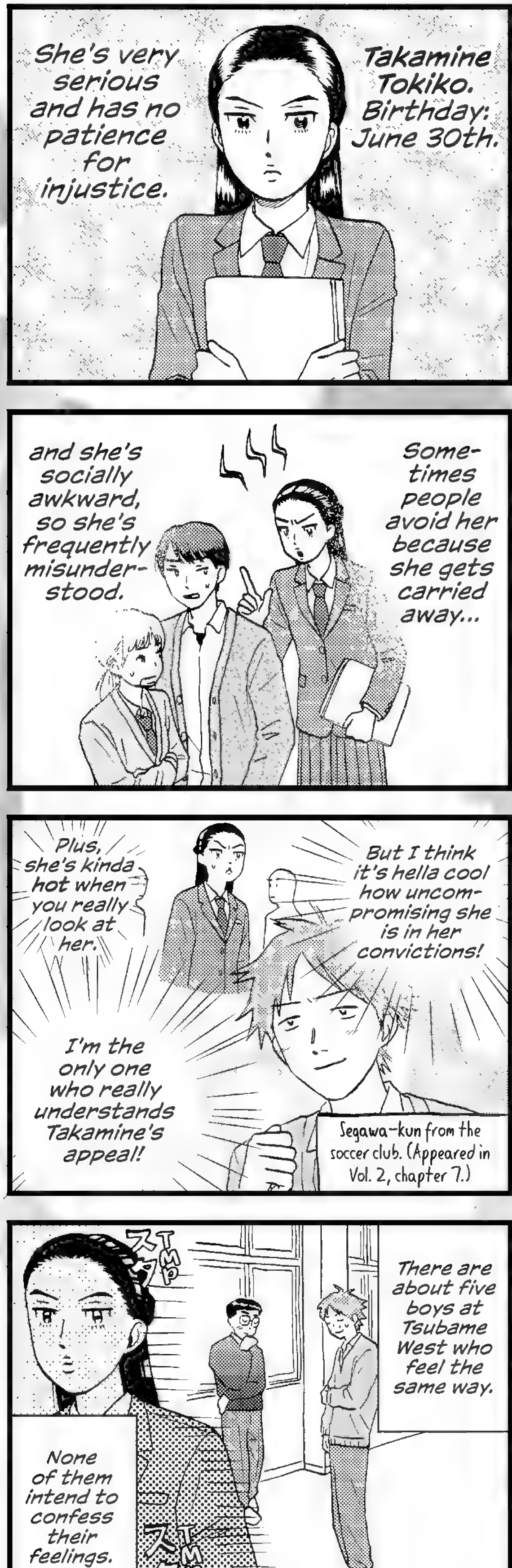
My editor, Miyazaki-san

You've all been such a great help!
And a hearty thank you to everyone supporting Skip and Loafer.

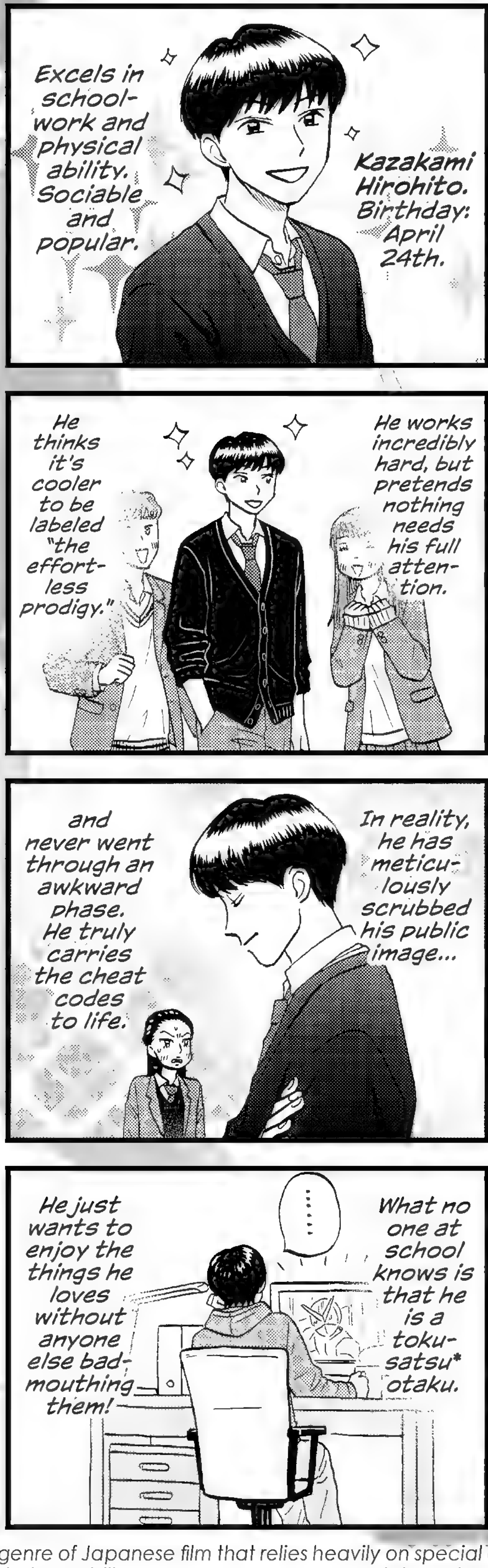
I hope to see you again in Volume 5!

Skip and Loafer

Takamine-san



Kazakami-kun



*Tokusatsu: A genre of Japanese film that relies heavily on special effects. Famous examples include Godzilla, Power Rangers (Super Sentai), and Kamen Rider.

Skip and Loafer




SCHEDULE

Skip and Loafer

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

Skip and Loafer

Vol. 4

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Skip To Loafers Vol. 4

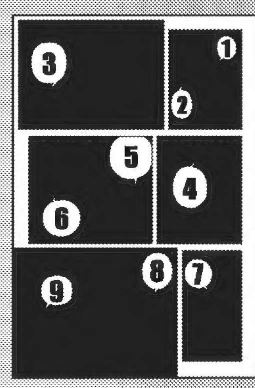
First published in Japan in 2020 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Publication rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

Seven Seas press and purchase enquiries can be sent to Marketing Manager Lianne Sentar at press@gomanga.com. Information regarding the distribution and purchase of digital editions is available from Digital Manager CK Russell at digital@gomanga.com.

ISBN: 978-1-63858-203-8
Printed in Canada
First Printing: April 2022
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



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Chaos at the School Festival
Between her class's musical performance and a dizzying array of committee duties, Mitsumi is determined that her first school festival in Tokyo will be a rousing success! But will it...?
TEEN (13+)
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